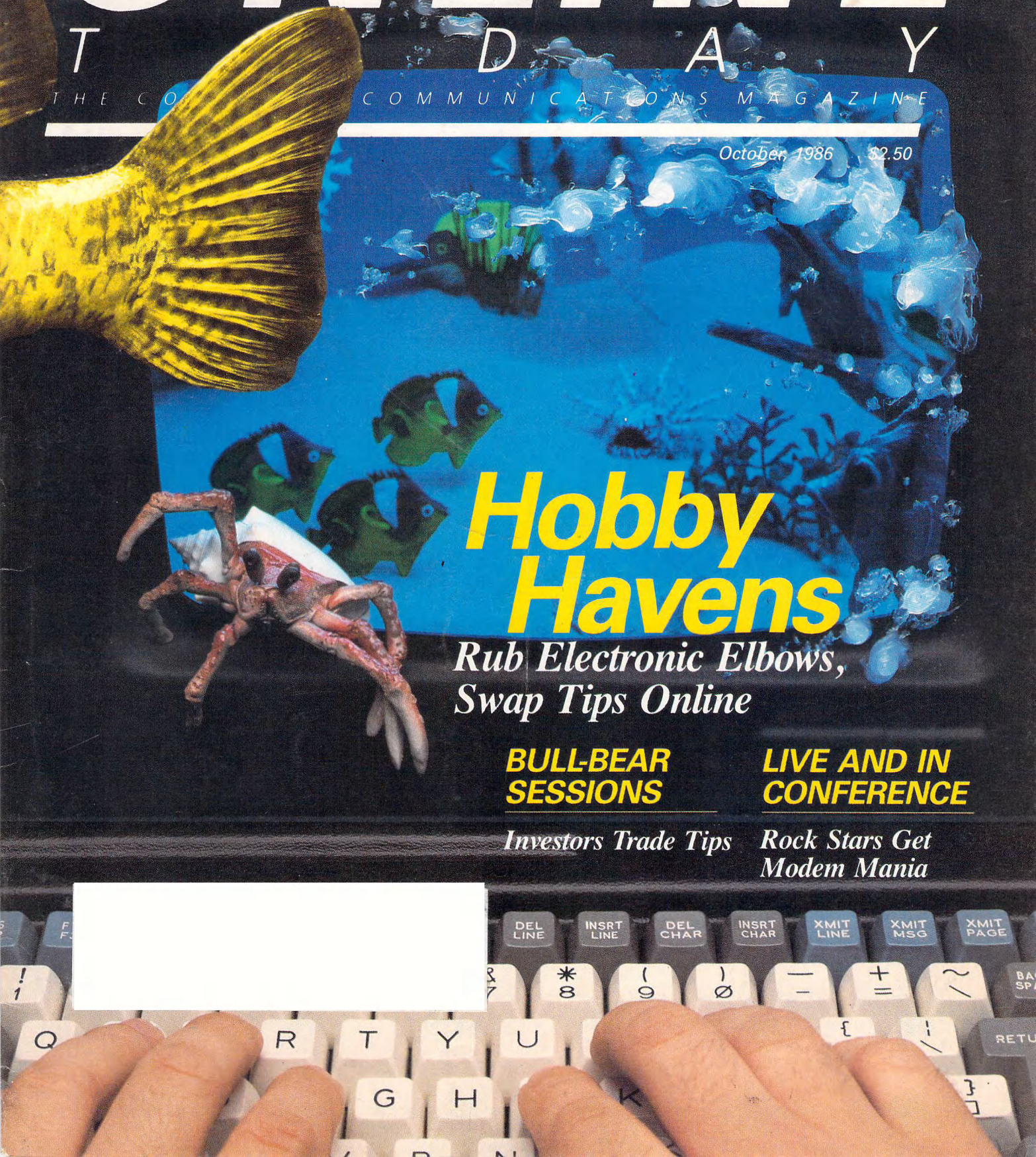
A COMPUSERVE PUBLICATION PRINTED MONTHLY/ONLINE DAILY

# ONLINE TODAY

THE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE

October 1986 $2.50



## Hobby Havens

*Rub Electronic Elbows, Swap Tips Online*

**BULL-BEAR SESSIONS**

*Investors Trade Tips*

**LIVE AND IN CONFERENCE**

*Rock Stars Get Modem Mania*

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## ELECTRONIC EDITION

*Online Today Electronic Edition* provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe services, commentary, computer product reviews and more. To access the *Electronic Edition*, type GO OLT at any CompuServe prompt.


**GO OLT** **A GO-page directory** *of the day's top computer industry news and a summary of key OLT page numbers.*

**OLT-160** **The Monitor Daily News** *main menu.*

**OLT-90** **Today's computer and information industry news.**

**OLT-20** **The current week's Monitor news.**

**OLT-130** **Behind the Screens.** *Computer and information industry news, rumor and gossip.*

**OLT-50** **CompuServe Update** *main menu. Lists all CompuServe news departments.*

**OLT-70** **What's New on CompuServe.**

**OLT-80** **CompuServe Community News.**

**OLT-120** **Forum Conference Schedules.**

**OLT-140** **Beginner's Corner.**

**OLT-600** **Resident Memory.**

**OLT-3500** **Online With Charles Bowen.**

**OLT-3700** **Uploads.** *A bi-weekly column summarizing new files in CompuServe's forum data libraries.*

**OLT-1000** **Computer Events Calendar.**

**OLT-2000** **OLT Special Reports.**

**OLT-3000** **Computer Legislation Database.**

**OLT-30** **Letters to the Editor** *main menu.*

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**EBB-11** **Instructions** *on use of the Electronic Bounce Back reader service system.*

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**EBB-70** **Shopper's Guide.**



*Online Today* is published monthly in the United States of America by CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., Columbus, OH 43220. Application to mail at Second-Class postage rates is pending at Columbus, Ohio, and additional mailing offices.

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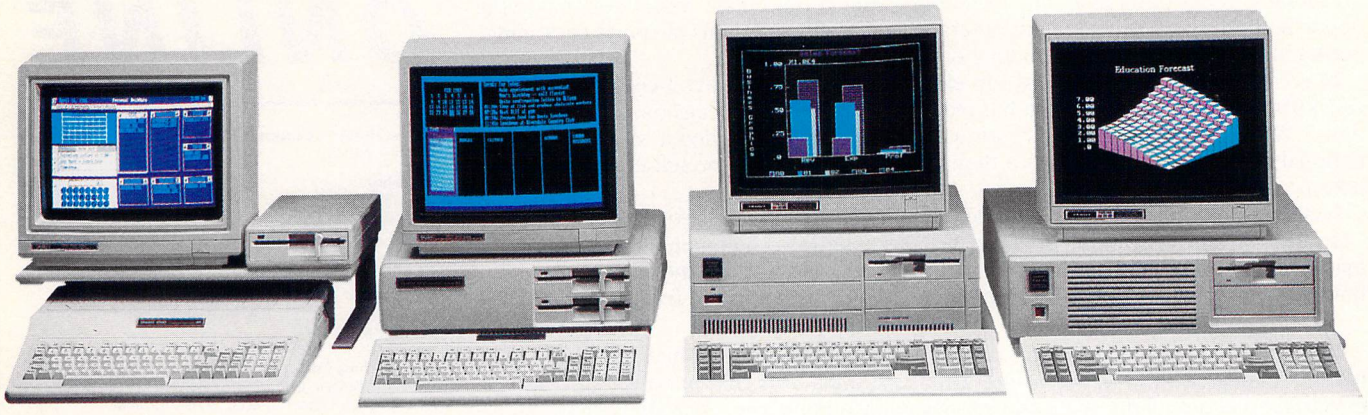


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# DEAR READER

Hobbies. Most of us have one or another, and certainly we would appreciate the opportunity to communicate with others who share the passions of sports car racing, book collecting, wine-tasting, sailing or what have you.

In some cases, it's possible to rub elbows with fellow ichthyologists, old salts or car buffs — but it's usually on a limited local scale with an occasional "big convention." With CompuServe's forum software, hobbyists have found a way to meet on a national scale year 'round, where they can swap tips, trade or sell equipment and hold conferences.

In this month's feature, *Online Today* explores the network world of hobbies in "Hobby Havens" beginning on page 18. Here you'll find a complete roundup on the major hobby-oriented forums now operating on CompuServe, and information on how you can participate. Read on and then sign in and join the fun!

* * *

In a comprehensive readership survey conducted last spring, many *Online Today* readers indicated they wanted more articles and features that provide "how-to" information about all products and services on CompuServe. Already we have incorporated several changes into our cover feature copy and Update section as a response to that need. We plan many more changes to integrate tutorials and instructional information into every appropriate section of the magazine.

In some cases, these changes will mean noticeable and rather abrupt realignments of existing features. The "Online" column with Contributing Editor Charles Bowen is one such feature. In the past, Mr. Bowen has written in his column about issues and viewpoints that affect the online industry and CompuServe as a community. We've come to appreciate Mr. Bowen's column as a warm, insightful way to round out the magazine. Some of you have written to us and told us so.

However, remaining responsive and flexible to the needs of our readership ranks first, and many readers want more hands-on, how-to information. With this issue, Mr. Bowen obliges with his first "Online" column to reflect a new tutorial approach. In "Online," you intermediate and advanced users will find the same kind of reliable how-to information that novice users have come to expect from the "Beginner's Corner" feature, albeit on a more intensive level. The new "Online" will explore all the hills and hollows of the CompuServe Information Service and its gateway companions to ferret out time and dollar-saving secrets.

Bowen, co-author of *How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe*, is an expert on writing instructional copy about CompuServe's myriad products and services. We trust you'll find the new "Online" to be useful and informative.

* * *

Speaking of Bowen's co-author, Dave Peyton is busy working the back roads of CompuServe to bring you more well-kept secrets from forum data libraries. Peyton's new feature "Uploads" premieres in this issue, and contains a summary of all the major new programs and files uploaded to CompuServe forum data libraries. His column is updated twice monthly in *Online Today Electronic Edition*. We urge you to read the latest "Uploads" updates online by typing GO OLT-3700 from any system prompt. A compilation of previous *Electronic Edition* columns will appear each month from now on in *Online Today*. You'll find the first installment on page 38.

Douglas G. Branstetter
*Editor*


**ONLINE TODAY**

***Online Today*[R], October 1986**
Volume 5 Number 10

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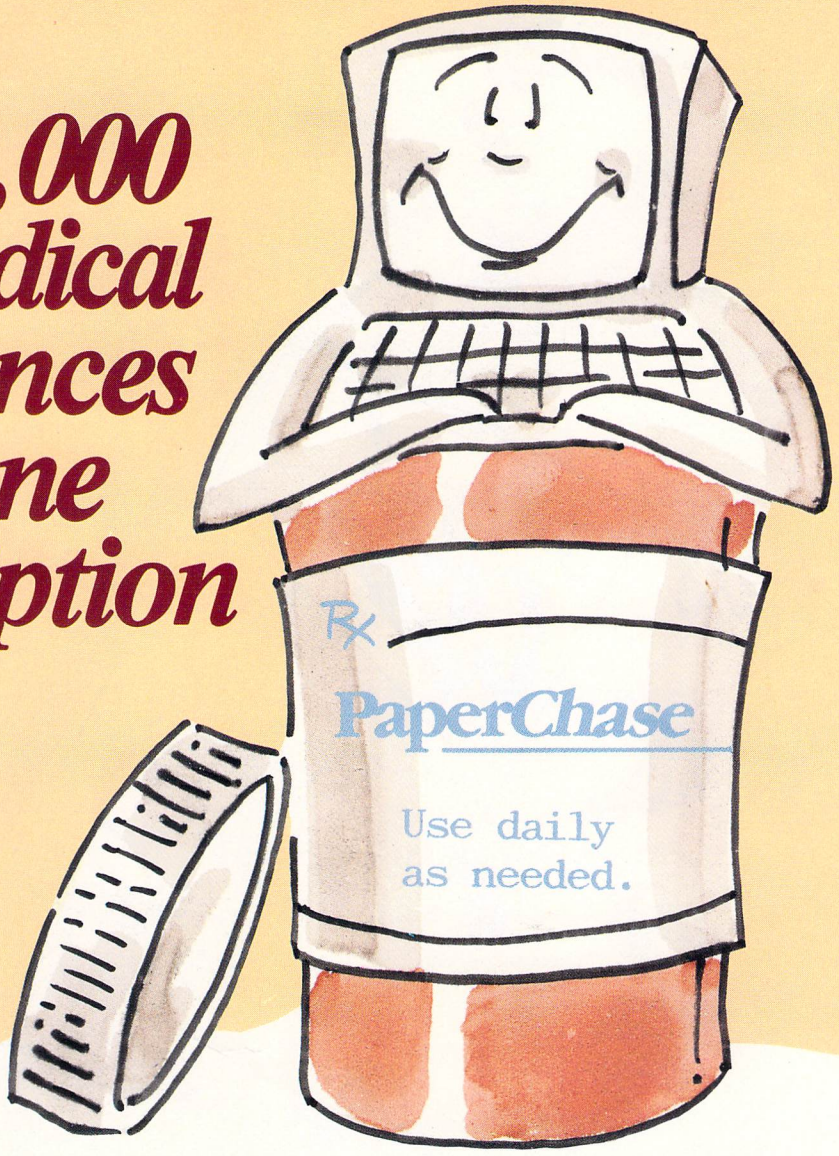


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# LETTERS

### University Networks

It was encouraging to read the Monitor article (July 1986) about Cleveland State University's work with networking microcomputers and mainframes for student and faculty use, and for communication between scholars at distant locations.

I would, however, like to correct the claim that CSU was "the first one to pull [PCs] together with networks and mainframes." This is not quite accurate. The CSU system is described as including 100 IBM PCs, some IBM Series/1s and a mainframe.

About five years ago Brown University installed a broadband telecommunications network called BRUNET. Among other functions (closed-circuit television broadcasting and telemetry), BRUNET interconnects nearly every computer on campus.

The comprehensive network (including gated local area networks) has about 50 Apollo workstations in an instructional lab, and about 30 Macintoshes in another; several VAXs; an IBM 3081 mainframe; a Star array processor; and hundreds of Macs and IBM PCs owned by departments, faculty, staff and students.

Brown has developed software supporting electronic mail, conferences, software libraries, online library and course catalogs, phototypesetting and other functions. Beyond the University, Brown connects to a worldwide mainframe network called BITNET, and through gateways to UseNet, CSNet and Arpanet.

CSU's work, though admirable, is not the first or most advanced.

Steven J. DeRose
Dept. of Linguistics
Brown University
Providence, R.I.

### Downloading the News

I am an avid reader of *Online Today Electronic Edition* and would like to know if there is a way to download the *Online Today* news rather than capturing it one screen at a time.

Since I need to make a long-distance call to access CompuServe, I would prefer to download the news periodically and read it at my leisure.

Devan Shepard
Hamilton, Bermuda

*Editor's Note: There is a way to capture an entire story, rather than a screen of information, at once. At any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service type GO TERMINAL and select "Set Service Options" from the Terminal/Options main menu. Select the option "Page Display Is . . ." and CompuServe will display the current page display setting and a menu of available settings. Choose "Disable (scroll mode)."*

*Before exiting the Terminal/Options area, you will be asked if the changes made are for future sessions or for that session only. Select the option to make all changes effective for future sessions.*

*At this time it is not possible to eliminate the prompts "Enter choice!" or "Last page!" and scroll consecutive menu options automatically.*

*By following these instructions you should be able to use your capture buffer to capture each story you want to read. If the amount of material fills your capture buffer, you will need to empty the buffer into a file before capturing additional stories.*


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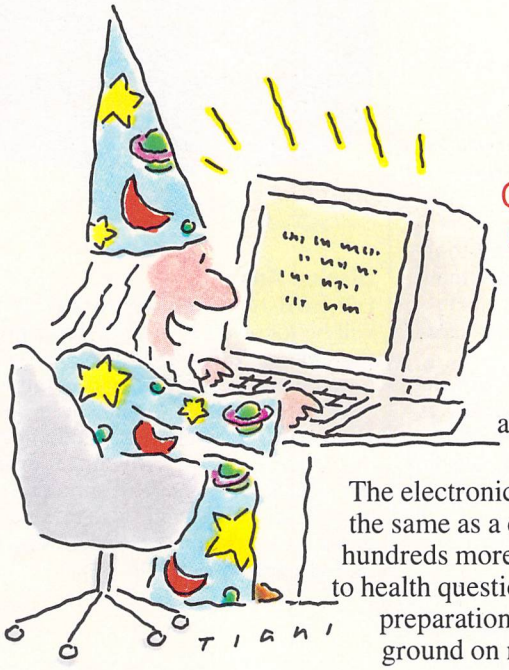

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### Uploads Column

I congratulate your magazine on the success of the new Uploads column (GO OLT-3700 on *Online Today Electronic Edition*). This column provides a useful feature to CompuServe subscribers who formerly had to survey dozens of forums to find the new files and programs.

Hugh Wilcox
North Hollywood, Calif.

### Descriptions of Services

Does CompuServe offer a comprehensive book describing services such as IQuest so that CompuServe Information Service subscribers can have a better understanding of what's available online?

Randy L. Dickerman
Ypsilanti, Mich.

*Editor's Note: The CompuServe Product Almanac is now available to subscribers. For a description of this publication and instructions on ordering it online,* *see page 25 of this issue.*

### Business Communications

*Online Today* has been a useful tool for my company's computer department. After reading the magazine, we made several purchases to upgrade our hardware and software.

Since my company specializes in video production, we require an accurate system with online information updated constantly. I would like to thank the staff of *Online Today* and CompuServe for providing this service.

Chuck Nolen
Philadelphia, Pa.

### Computer Legislation Database

I have a suggestion for improving *Online Today Electronic Edition*. In the Computer Legislation Database (GO OLT-3000) it would be helpful if the articles about the individual bills included the actual text of the bills.

From my experiences with grassroots work for another Constitutional issue, I've learned that a letter is more effective if it actually quotes and picks on specific weaknesses in the bill you are attacking.

Brad Hicks
St. Louis, Mo.

## Guidelines to Requesting Information Through EBB

### Electronic Bounce Back

Electronic Bounce Back is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO EBB at any prompt.

### Display Ads

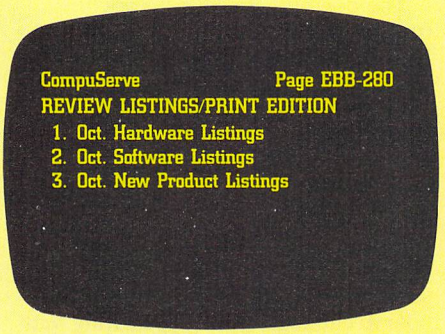
GO EBB-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts.* EBB will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

### Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Electronic Bounce Back system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, go to page EBB-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as October Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the EBB system will prompt you for the necessary information.

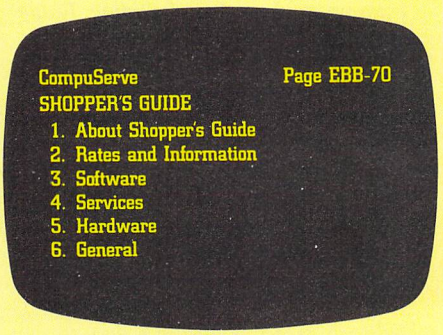
Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.




### Shopper's Guide

GO EBB-70. This is *Online Today*'s classified section and is designed to enable readers to easily scan areas of interest.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, send messages via CompuServe EasyPlex or use traditional methods of communication.

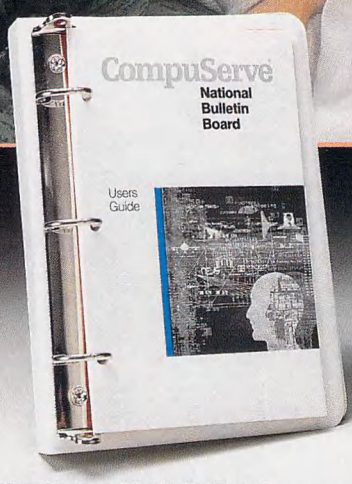



***Note:**
Additional requests during the same session will not require you to re-enter your name and address.

# finger Shopping

CompuServe offers a variety of products that save you time and money whenever you log on. Others that bring online products to a much fuller life. And still others that make being a CompuServe subscriber a more fashionable pastime.

**NOTE:** Prices for our entire product line have been revised since our last sale. Postage and handling charges, previously included in the price of each item, are now automatically calculated at the end of the ordering procedure. (A table at the back of this section outlines the new shipping and handling prices.)

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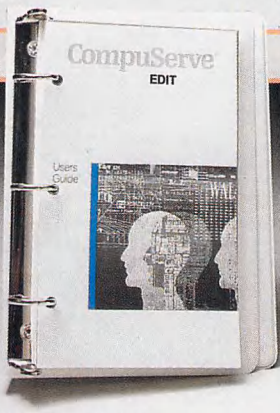


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Become a more proficient user of the line editor used in many CompuServe products — EasyPlex, Forums, Personal File Area, etc. Compose and edit memos, notes and text quicker and error-free. Comes with a reference card that summarizes commands and their abbreviations.

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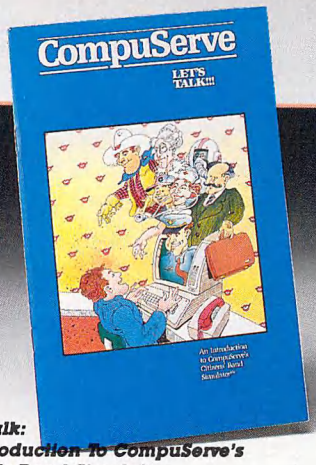
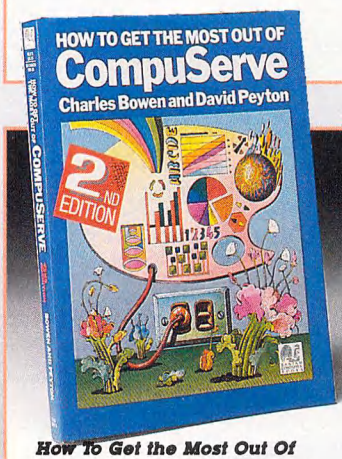
**New CompuServe Almanac**
There are literally hundreds of offerings on the CompuServe Information Service you may have never visited. Use the CompuServe Almanac to become acquainted with all of them — without visiting them individually online. Its 300+ pages are loaded with helpful features, presenting products in "workbook" style to help you research and recall key destinations by area and page number. It's certain to pay for itself in connect time savings.

Reg. $12.95 **SAVE $5** **$7.95**



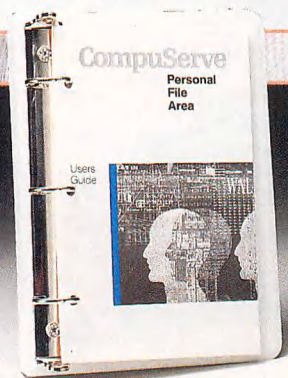

***Let's Talk:***
***An Introduction To CompuServe's Citizen's Band Simulator***
Although you can teach yourself to *access* CB in a single session, you won't have any idea about the real capacity of CB as a communications utility and modern day party line until you read this primer for computer conversation.

**$4.95**




***How To Get the Most Out Of CompuServe (Second Edition)***
**by Charles Bowen and David Peyton**
The first edition of this book from Bantam earned acclaim from longtime CompuServe users, novices, and even non-subscribers for its step-by-step discussion of CompuServe's leading products. The second edition also includes a $6 CREDIT!

Reg. $16.95 **SAVE $4** **$12.95**




**Personal File Area Guide**
All subscribers receive 128K of storage in a personal file area. EasyPlex messages, Executive News Service clippings, files, "form" letters and more can be stored for 30 days without charge. File management programs, text editors, disk storage techniques, EasyPlex shortcuts, and more are explained in this guide. Includes: ICS, Terminal Parameter, and EDIT Reference Cards.

Reg. $10.95 **SAVE $3.45** **$7.50**

**The CompuServe Information Service Subscription Kit**
Why not have another User ID number and electronic mailbox for a traveling member of the family or firm? The CompuServe Information Service Subscription Kit includes a 24-page full-color overview of the service offerings, over a dozen Reference Cards, a Quick Reference Word index, a System Configuration Diagram, plus:

- a $25 introductory usage credit
- a User ID number and password
- a list of Information Service rates and local telephone access numbers
- an introductory subscription to *Online Today* magazine

The Kit includes an **Information Service Users Guide** (also available separately), a spiral-bound, hardcover 200-page guide, highly recommended for subscribers who've come online through the CompuServe IntroPak™ program. The guide covers: EasyPlex® electronic mail; the Executive News Service; the National Bulletin Board; Citizen's Band Simulator; forum message boards, data libraries and conferencing; information transfers to and from your computer; travel services; financial services; electronic shopping; interactive games; and more. When purchased separately the guide also includes: a System Configuration Diagram, an alphabetized Quick Reference Word index, and over a dozen Reference Cards.

Subscription Kit
**$39.95**

Users Guide
Reg. $14.95
**Save $8.45**
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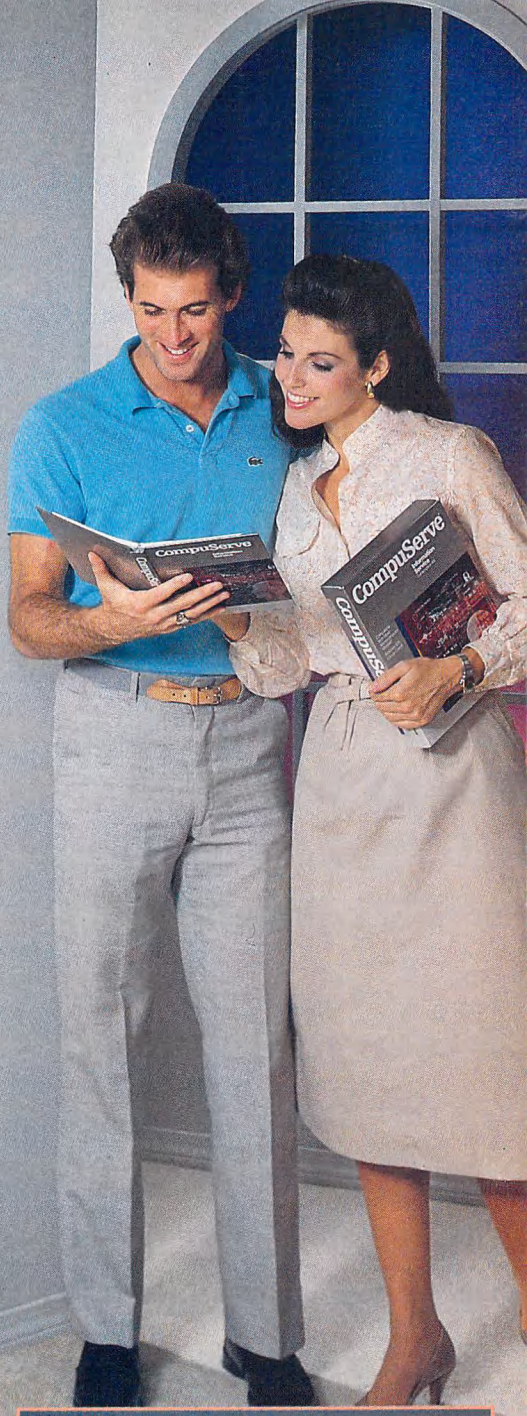


**BLACKDRAGON Tee-shirt**
Cross the Labyrinth, slay the dragon and live? Announce your success with this black tee-shirt with white BlackDragon illustration.

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Now hear this: SeaWARS enlistees will be considered out of uniform without the official SeaWARS tee-shirt. Available appropriately in navy on light blue, the shirt depicts a port bow hit.

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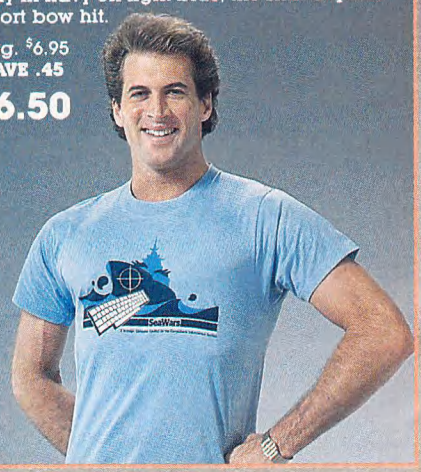
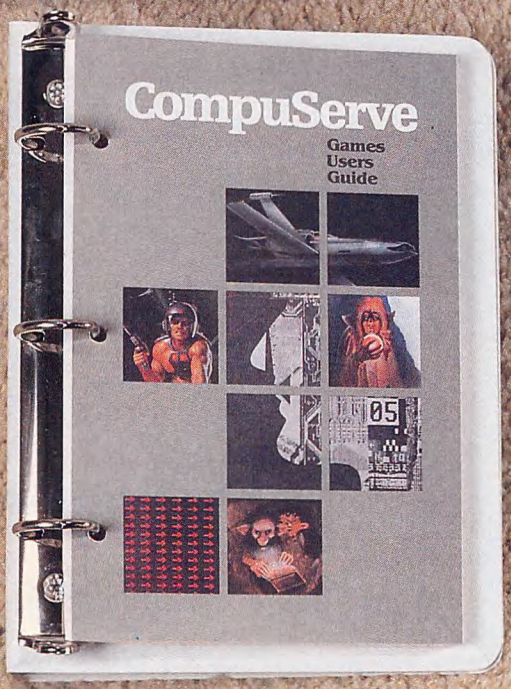


**New Island of Kesmai Guide**
One of CompuServe's leading adventure games, Island of Kesmai is like no other online island you may have visited. Prepare yourself — with this comprehensive island atlas. Meet the inhabitants. Learn their customs and social mores. You won't just bring the game's interactive features to greater light, you'll lead a longer life in your island role.

Reg. $16.50 **SAVE $1.55** **$14.95**

**MegaWars I Package**
Realistic accessories for the fantasy gamer. This package includes a MegaWars Briefing Guide in a three-ring binder, along with a series of five MegaWars spacecraft blueprints and a galaxy map.

Reg. $16.95 **SAVE $2** **$14.95**




**CompuServe Games Guide**
CompuServe leads the online computing world in multi-player, adventure, space and war game offerings for microcomputer gamers of all ages and intellects. Play them to meet fascinating characters, negotiate puzzling scenarios, plan elaborate strategies, and more. This survey of the CompuServe game universe offers descriptions of all our game offerings and a section on getting the most out of our Gamers' Forum.

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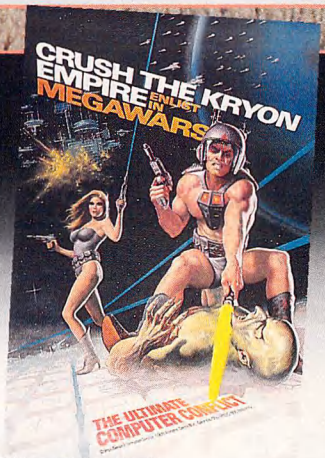


**MegaWars Color Poster**
Handsome full color MegaWars wall poster depicting an evil Kryon confronting the champions of the Colonist's Empire. Measures 25" x 38".

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**New CompuServe Logo Sweat-shirt**
Make CompuServe a name for all seasons with this sturdy long sleeve sweat shirt. Available in light blue, navy blue and red.

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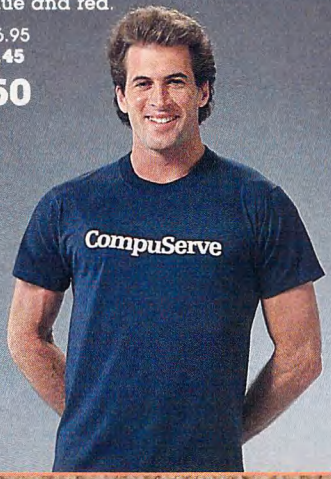


**"I've Got A Handle On CompuServe CB"**
Tell the world you're a part of the fastest growing interactive communications revolution since the telephone — CB — with this colorful tee-shirt. Available in selected colors listed online.

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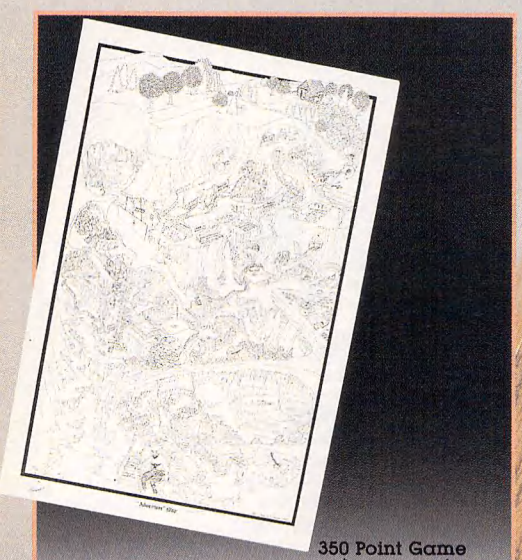
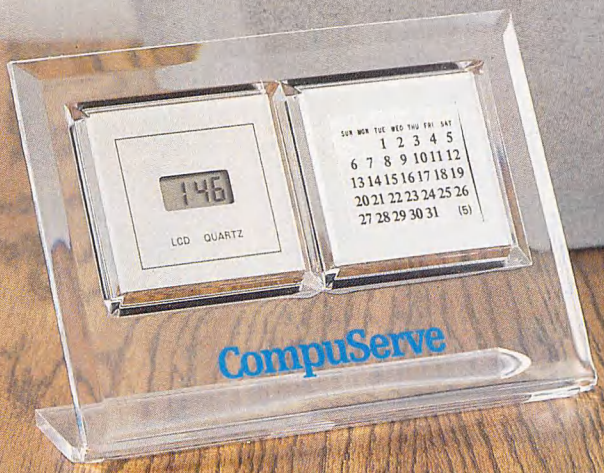


350 Point Game
Reg. $3.95 **SAVE $2.45**
**$1.50**

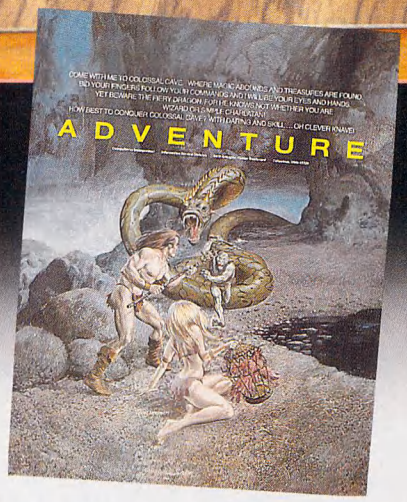
**Adventure Game Maps**
Exciting adventure maps, drawn in outline so participants can color their maps to match their imaginations. Both illustrate pathways and pitfalls one encounters in the Adventure game's Colossal cave. Available for both the 350 and 751 point games.

751 Point Game
Reg. $4.95 **SAVE $3**
**$1.95**



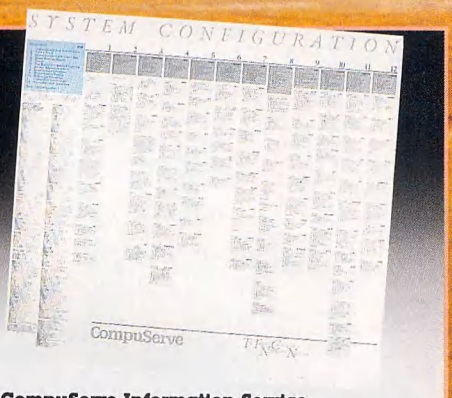

**New CompuServe Digital Desk Clock**
Mounted within a clear lucite desk stand for high-visibility, this contemporary timepiece is an attractive and useful addition to any computer workstation — home or office. It prominently displays the CompuServe logo and comes with a calendar in an adjacent window that includes interchangeable monthly templates which can represent any configuration of days in a month.

Reg. $10.95 **SAVE $4.45** **$6.50**




**Adventure Game Color Poster**
Two able Adventurers battle a huge green serpent and an axe-wielding dwarf in this vivid full color poster. Measures 18" x 24".

Reg. $4.95 **SAVE $3** **$1.95**

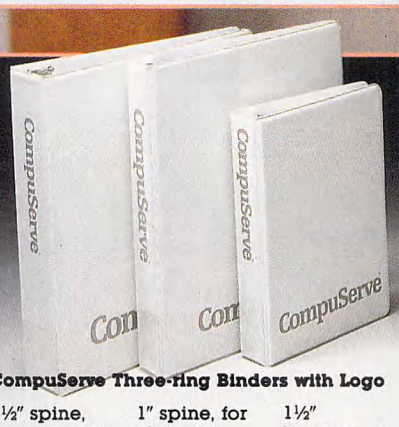



**CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart**
This 35" x 33" poster (5/86 version) depicts all screens appearing on the Top Menu and all screens accessible from those initial choices.

Mailed in tube **$4.95**
Shipped folded **$3.95**

**CompuServe: First Choice of a Network Nation — Poster**
World-renowned illustrator, Fred Otnes, produced the commissioned illustration that is the focal point for this full color, 23" x 30" poster. A perfect addition to a home computer alcove or office wall. Shipped unfolded in a sturdy mailing tube.

Reg. $4.95 **SAVE $1.45** **$3.50**




**CompuServe Three-ring Binders with Logo**

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1½" hardboard binder and slipcase for 5½" x 8½" pages
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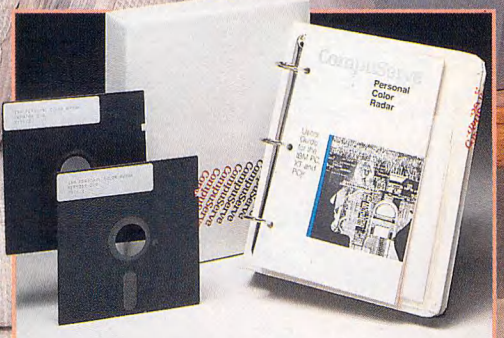
**Back Issues of *Online Today* Magazine**
*Online Today* magazine's back issues represent a cache of incisive articles tracking the evolution and impact of videotex and computer communication. Use a list of feature articles from back issues, provided online, to obtain volumes missing from your set, or to select issues of interest published before you became a subscriber.

Reg. $2.50 **SAVE $1** **$1.50**




**Personal Color Radar Software**
Download information compiled online from National Weather Service reporting stations to create color coded charts of precipitation patterns on a map of the continental United States. For the IBM PC, XT or PCjr (128K RAM), or the TRS-80 Color Computer (32K RAM)

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No one links your IBM PC, XT, or PCjr. to CompuServe like CompuServe. The Professional Connection includes all the features of VIDTEX, plus:

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**CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart**

As a special incentive to place an online order during the Fingershopping Fall Sale, any order over $25 placed between October 1 and November 31 will receive a CompuServe Information Service System Configuration Wall Chart (new 5/86). FREE. The chart (folded version) will be included automatically in qualifying orders, there is no need to enter an order for your bonus item. To assure delivery prior to the holidays, place your order no later than November 10.

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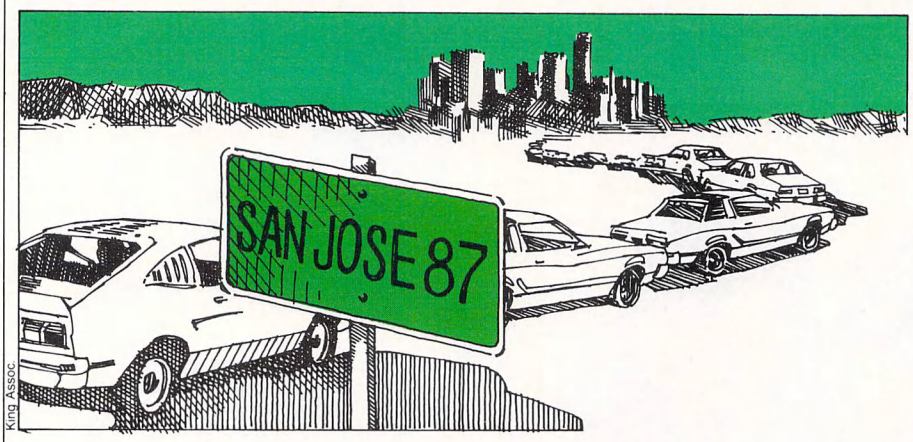



## Explore the Way to San Jose's High-Tech Center

If you are a long-range planner, explore the way to San Jose for that 1990 summer vacation. That is when The Technology Center of Silicon Valley is set to open on the banks of the Guadalupe River.

The $45 million facility is the centerpiece of a massive redevelopment of downtown San Jose whose backers expect to attract 2 million computer-lovers yearly to the site.

More than a Cooperstown for computers, the Technology Center is expected to include research facilities, teaching areas, archives, and an electronic information system for use by visitors and subscribers. About a third of the Center's 250,000 square feet in exhibits will be interactive.

"High-tech" performers such as Stevie Wonder and electronic innovators such as George Lucas will be invited to perform in the Center's specially equipped auditorium. A children's museum, located next door, will divert other members of the family.

Although the Center is only about 10 percent of the way to its fund-raising goal, ground-breaking should begin in the spring of 1987, according to Gerald W. Patrick, director of development. "We've had the predictable slippage," he said recently. "No project of this size could be expected to be without that sort of thing." But the Silicon Valley shakeout seems about over and the major companies surviving also are backing the center, he notes. Steve Wozniak recently made a personal pledge of $2 million. Woz, currently head of CL-9 Corp., was a founder of Apple, one of the continuing giants in the valley.

"We are heavily dependent on the corporate world," says Patrick. "The computer companies are our number one constituents as well as our window to the future . . . . We don't want the Center to be an archive of what was, so much as an educational institution of what is."

Meanwhile, the Silicon Valley movers-and-shakers are working to find the money for the facility. P. Anthony (Tony) Ridder, publisher of the most profitable property in the Knight-Ridder Newspapers chain, the *San Jose Mercury News*, chairs the Center board of directors. Interested donors are encouraged to contact the center's temporary offices, now in a modernistic industrial park just outside San Jose at 2800 Zanker Rd., Suite 103, San Jose, CA 95134.

*— Byron T. Scott*

## Researcher Takes Closer Look at Telecommuters

A researcher at the University of California at Riverside is beginning a major study comparing the effects of working at home with working in a traditional office on work performance, family life and job satisfaction.

Katty Joy French, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology, is interested in producing scientific research on the nationwide trend toward home-based work.

"Employers need to make wise decisions about where work should be located. It is good for some to work at home and not so good for others. Such a decision should not be made haphazardly," she explains, noting a lack of scientific studies in this area.

French wants to study the two groups performing similar tasks, and the use of computers seems a natural bridge.

She plans to survey members of the Association of Electronic Cottagers, who work primarily from home offices as either entrepreneurs or telecommuting employees, and a group of electronic engineers who work primarily in a traditional office.

"As a sociologist, I have studied the bureaucratization of society since the industrial revolution. We all are socialized from an early age to be good bureaucrats, that is, we learn early to be obedient, punctual and to place a value on going out to work. We learn not to bring our family problems to the job and not to bring our work home. There is traditionally a separation between family and work.

"So what happens, I wonder, when the two are brought into the same environment?" she continues. "I think the potential is there for some interesting family power shifts and changes in relationships within the family, as well as power relationships between employee and employer."

French notes that one phenomenon common to home-based work is that instead of the work becoming more creative and challenging, it typically becomes more routinized, since the employer does not trust the employee to do anything other than rote work without direct supervision. "Some home-based employees actually are more controlled in their telecommuting jobs than they were when they worked in an office," she explains.

French hopes her research will assist corporations planning home-based work programs.

For more details, contact Katty Joy French, Department of Sociology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0419.

*— Cathryn Conroy*

## Collegians Attend Online Conferences

Connected Education, an independent, not-for-profit corporation operated by New York City's New School for Social Research, offers students worldwide an unprecedented opportunity for higher education with online classes.

At the heart of the unique program is computer conferencing. According to Paul Levinson, president of Connected Education, professors chosen from experts around the world log on and leave "lectures" in the form of online messages. Students read the messages and respond at their convenience. Real-time, interactive conferences are held periodically throughout the term. There are no tests; students are graded on class projects and papers.

Course titles include "Computer Conferencing in Business and Education," "Electronic Journalism," "Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence," "Ethics in a Technological Age" as well as more practical courses, such as an online writers' workshop.

"This is a highly interactive program," says Levinson. "It is in no way dehumanizing. People are working with other people, not just a computer. The computer is the medium and not the end of the exchange."

Although online education may not be for everyone, it is the only way for some. Levinson says that more than half of the graduate students involved with Connected Education travel extensively with their jobs, which ordinarily would preclude continuing education. "Now they log on from wherever they happen to be, which has been in such remote places as Africa," he says.

Levinson recounts the story of a deaf student. "He tape-recorded lectures and had someone transcribe the tape. He read the lecture, but couldn't participate as it was occurring. Now his participation is no different than anyone else's in the program."

Advantages to online education are many, Levinson says, including giving students greater control over their lives. "We've noticed that our students are sharpening their literary skills. Since our primary mode of communication is writing rather than talking, we have noticed an improvement in the students' writing abilities."

There are drawbacks, too, Levinson admits: It is difficult to create the campus ambiance (although there is an electronic coffeehouse online), and it would be impossible to conduct laboratory work. "But the advantages are great. We're in the infancy of personal computers, and as they become more prevalent, students will be able to take courses anywhere in the world without having to leave home. It will increase the quality and opportunity of education."

For further information on Connected Education, send an EasyPlex to Levinson at 72517,3107.

## Computer Training Lacks Creativity

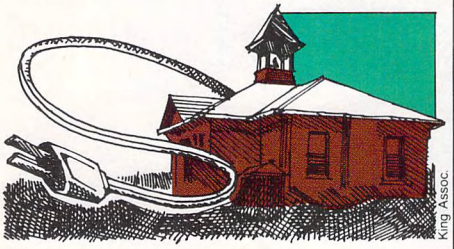
Computers can be used for more than constructing BASIC programs; they also can be used for word processing, database management and spreadsheet analysis.

That may not be front page news to the business world, but it is in education.

"Most of the computer activity in secondary schools in the United States is white males learning to program. But all students need substantial exposure to microcomputers," says Hugh F. Cline, a research scientist with Educational Testing Service (ETS).

"If computer use is limited to just programming, it will be difficult to get other students using the machines. But by using applications and emphasizing their use as tools, we can get a larger, more heterogeneous group comfortable with computers."

Cline directed an ETS study of the use of computers in secondary schools. The findings appear in *The Electronic Schoolhouse: The IBM Secondary School Computer Education Program*, detailing the results of an $8 million project combining IBM hardware, software and network support with ETS expertise in educational program administration and teacher training. The blueprint was applied at 89 secondary schools in California, Florida and New York.




The participating schools not only began using word processing in English classes and database management in social studies classes, but also brought the microcomputer into such extracurricular activities as producing school newspapers and magazines and maintaining athletic team statistics.

"Schools are spending a lot of money on computer hardware, but not much on software," said Cline, who recommends that schools "choose software that is easy to learn and use, and make sure the first experiences in using computers are successful, relevant and non-trivial.

He hopes the book will inspire teachers to be more creative in their use of computers and to establish contact with one another, sharing their ideas and experiences.

For more information, contact Hugh F. Cline at Educational Testing Service, Princeton, NJ 08541-0001; 609/734-5520. *The Electronic Schoolhouse*, selling for $22.50 (hardcover) and $12.50 (softcover), is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 365 Broadway, Hillsdale, NJ 07642; 201/666-4110.

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## Bank Opens PC Store

Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago has taken a new approach to assisting employees in the purchase of personal computer hardware and software.

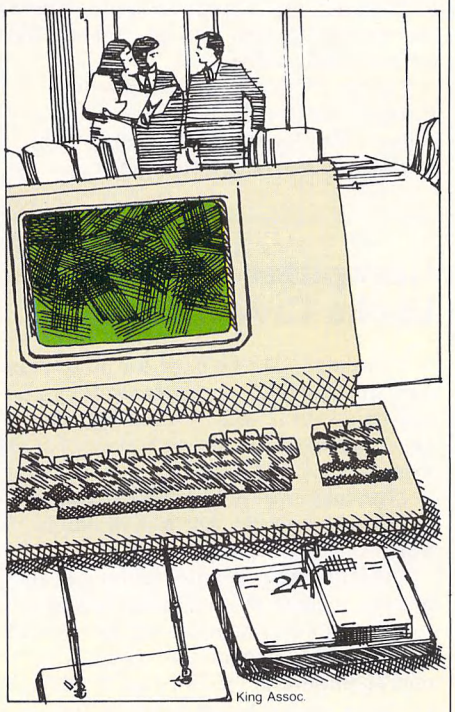
They've opened The PC Store — right in the middle of the bank.

The PC Store — a not-for-profit operation — offers consultation on system purchases and procures all equipment. Although most of the purchases made through The PC Store are for business use at the bank, employees can purchase systems for personal use at the same volume discounts.

"We wanted to make it clear to people where to get consistent information and a coordinated view," explains Continental's Peg Delaney, second vice president in systems. "The PC Store is a one-stop focal point area."

She says The PC Store is different from other corporate computer acquisition departments in that it offers hands-on experience and personal consulting, in which a computer expert analyzes a particular need or problem and designs a high-tech solution for it.

For instance, a manager who cannot decide between two systems can sit down in The PC Store and try them both out, much like he or she would in a retail outlet.




Delaney says every personal computer is equipped with an asynchronous modem, allowing access to an extensive corporate electronic mail network that now boasts approximately 7,000 users.

Support services offered are extensive and include a newsletter available in print or electronic editions, opportunity for daily rental of a Compaq personal computer, and monthly meetings of both general user groups and special interest groups.

For more information, contact Nora Donovan, Corporate Affairs, Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago, 231 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60697; 312/923-5202.

*— Cathryn Conroy*

Each issue of *Online Today* is filled with information which CompuServe subscribers benefit from having close at hand for reference.

Use these handsome binders and slip covers to store and protect your back and future editions.

Both styles of case are handcrafted in leather-like fabric, similar to the storage units used by libraries to shelve and preserve their periodicals. And the spines of all cases are embossed with the *Online Today* logo for easy identification on any bookshelf.

The binders open flat like a book and hold up to 12 magazines each with a sturdy cable that passes through the center pages of each issue.

The cases hold 12 unbound issues apiece — so that each can be removed for individual reference.

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# All the News You Want

When the United States flew a raid on Libya, I was out of town. My wife and I got home, turned on the television, and saw endless back-up stories on all channels. Well, we could certainly tell that something was happening, but none of the back-up stories said precisely what. Instead, we were becoming video experts on related incidents, the flight plan and the latest fatality claims.

So I went online, jumped over the the Associated Press pages, and pulled out the original information. Aha, said I, so that's what's going on! Thirty minutes later, my wife finally saw a television report explaining where things had started — but, of course, by then we already knew.

These days, when newspapers are struggling to keep up with television's "instant news," it's a joy to find a print-oriented medium with the same constant updating one gets from the news snippets between programs, and with the depth and retrieval factors of print. That's just what online news services provide.

There are a number of items on CompuServe's News menu. How do you find the news source you need? Let's look the menu over. It includes a wide variety of items, covering specific newspapers, newsletters and special news categories, such as business.

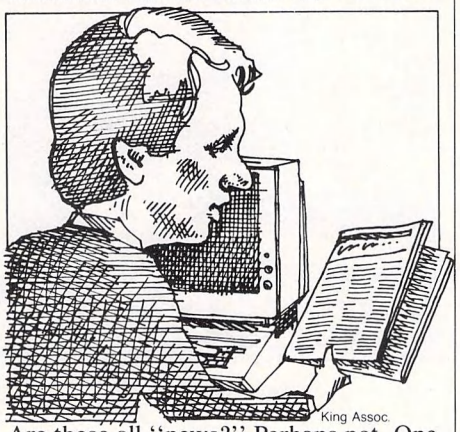
Suppose you want to check out the latest news. Few resources on the network are updated as regularly as the Associated Press wire services. Choosing item 8 takes you directly there, and you can also access it directly with the command GO APV.

You'll find that Associated Press divides its videotex pages into categories like Politics, National News, Business News and Entertainment. For information on the Libya raid, though, I chose item 1 — the latest from the service. While this information covers all categories, it's always the latest news. For more specific searches, you can choose the category that seems to fit. Political News, for example, is likely to have information on the current election races, while Business News might have an item on new mergers or stock offerings.

The APV pages are designed for swift searches, and have relatively short menus. If you want the full Associated Press national wire selections, you'll need to go through an associated newspaper service. The St. Louis Post Dispatch incorporates the AP newswire into menus. It takes longer to search these menus, but there's much more information available.

Choosing Newsletters from the NEWS menu takes you to another menu of strictly defined services. A newsletter differs from a newspaper, even online, in that the newsletter makes your choices for you. By choosing a newsletter, you're choosing the subject on which you want information. Thus, picking the Commodore or Tandy newsletters brings you information those companies are eager to share with you. There also are newsletters for AAMSI and ASI.

Some newsletters, such as AAMSI, are associated with larger services on CompuServe, and offer direct routes to related network information. Or suppose you chose the Commodore newsletter. You'll be given options including educational resources, user groups, technical references and the Commodore Forum.


King Assoc.

Are these all "news?" Perhaps not. One of the advantages of computers, though, is to let the machine do your searching for you. Newsletter menus do just that, giving you a list of all related services.

Ah, but you just want to find material on the late-breaking news developments? Return to the APV page, and choose item one. You'll be greeted with a list of "AP Newsbriefs." The one at the top of the menu is the most recent. Or perhaps you want a leisurely scan through news items of all sorts? You might look at various other APV items for that. Looking for longer pieces? Check out the full-scale Associated Press pages.

If you want to follow news relating to a specific topic, you can use the Executive News Service available to Executive Option subscribers. Through ENS, you can arrange to have Associated Press and Washington Post news stories on that topic clipped automatically and stored in an electronic "folder" for your perusal.

You may have news clipped from AP state wires and the AP national wire. The Washington Post, a recent addition to ENS, offers a wide variety of national and international stories as well as national government political news and commentary.

The CompuServe news services cover a wide enough variety of viewpoints to give you more than just the latest news. Search wisely, and you'll find background information, bits that never made it to your local newspaper or television coverage, and much more. If you look carefully, you will find all the news you want.

*Alex Krislov is a free-lance writer from Cleveland.*

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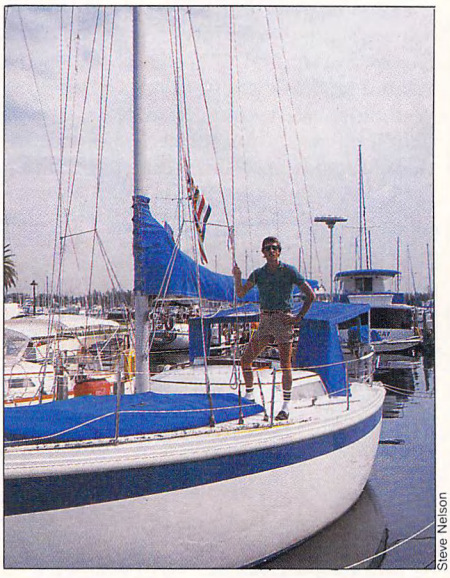
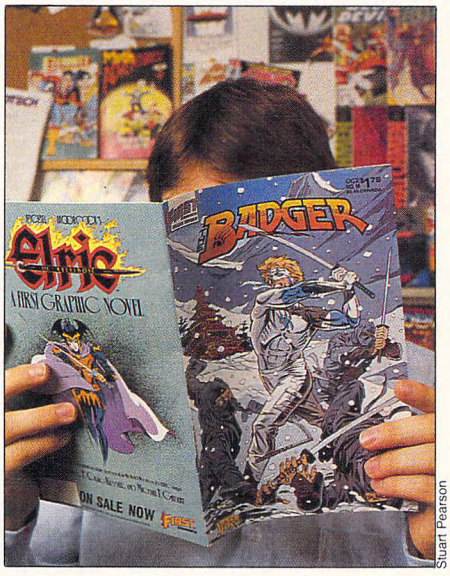
# Hobby

Greg Newman

**On the right track:** *Hollander*


Steve Nelson

**Testing the waters:** *Lovell*



Stuart Pearson

**A trade in comics:** *Wilhelmsen*

Everyone has heard the fisherman's story about the one that got away. When George Wilhelmsen tells the tale, he isn't talking bass; he's talking Batman — Batman I, that is, the comic book most people claim to have had in the attic at some time, the one that now sells for $25,000 at auction.

Holy investment!

"Comic books appreciate on a phenomenal scale," explains Wilhelmsen, a nuclear station operator for a midwestern utility by day and administrator of CompuServe's Comic Book and Science Fiction Forums by night. "The new Batman series, *Dark Night*, has been out since spring and already goes for $10 to $20 for a new copy."

Gulp. Did someone say comic books are for kids? Not so, says Wilhelmsen, a comparative newcomer to the hobby who now invests up to $50 a week in what he calls "graphic novels."

"As forum administrator of the Comic Book Forum it is my responsibility to stay on top of all the books that come out," he deadpans. "Actually, I used to think comics were for kids. Then I started picking up and reading them. I discovered, much to my dismay, that they were good to read and had some pretty decent plots. Now I'm hooked."

Being hooked on hobbies is a common addiction among CompuServe subscribers, but the condition is anything but terminal. The enthusiast whose hobby seems dead-ended by a lack of local resources receives a shot of life when he taps into a bank of online buffs. Even if the hobbyist doesn't find his forum immediately, the forum might find him eventually.

When John Lovell, administrator of the Sailing Forum, decided to test the waters for potential recruits, he turned to the system-wide subscriber directory. Boating, anyone?

"I came up with about 900 people who listed sailing as an interest," says Lovell, a construction manager in Miami. "If you took in yachting, sailboarding, windsurfing and all other combinations, it came to about 1,500 people. I culled a list and began development work on the

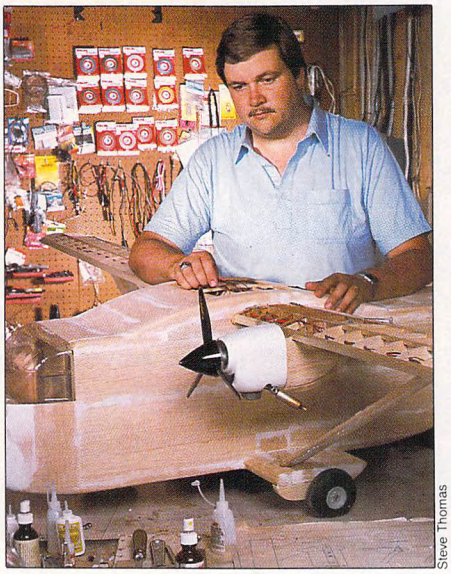
# Havens

*Discover the electronic retreats where hobbyists gather to swap suggestions and converse with experts.*

by Holly G. Miller

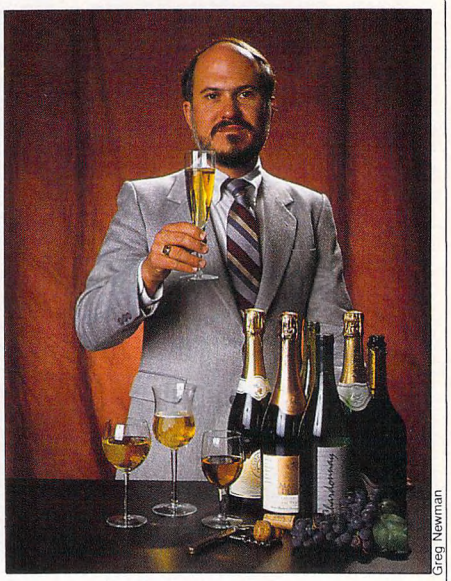
Steve Glenn

**Netting a number of members:** *Benn*



Steve Thomas

**Forum idea takes off:** *Pratt*



Greg Newman

**Toasting success:** *Kronman*

forum. I sent about 1,000 EasyPlexes notifying people when we were online. Within the first month, we were up to 20 to 25 messages a day.''

CompuServe staffers caution that hobby forums are established by design and not whim. The dozen hobby forums currently in operation were carefully proposed, extensively researched and are constantly monitored.

''The hobby area is growing, but it is controlled growth,'' explains Linda Thoirs, a CompuServe product marketing specialist. ''To provide all the information on a hobby on a national scope, a forum administrator needs several affiliations and the support of a major association or magazine related to the hobby. That way, the forum can be advertised to the magazine's subscriber base or promoted through a vehicle already in place. The administrator has to have a tremendous amount of credibility and be an expert in the field. In other words, he cannot be just someone who is enthusiastic about what he does. He has to be almost semi-professional.''

Like John Benn.

When Benn leaves his office in Florence, Ala., to head for Muscle Shoals where his home, wife, children and 65 fish tanks are located, he sheds the role of attorney and assumes the hat of manager of the ATF Forum — the Aquarium and Tropical Fish Forum, FishNet, for short. Online since May, the forum has enjoyed phenomenal success, thanks to support from five national and international fish organizations and a membership that became hooked during a pilot project launched by Benn a year ago.

''We opened a private bulletin board last Dec. 1, and by Jan. 30, we had members calling Alabama from as far as Alaska,'' says Benn. ''We proved there was plenty of interest, so we submitted a proposal to CompuServe.''

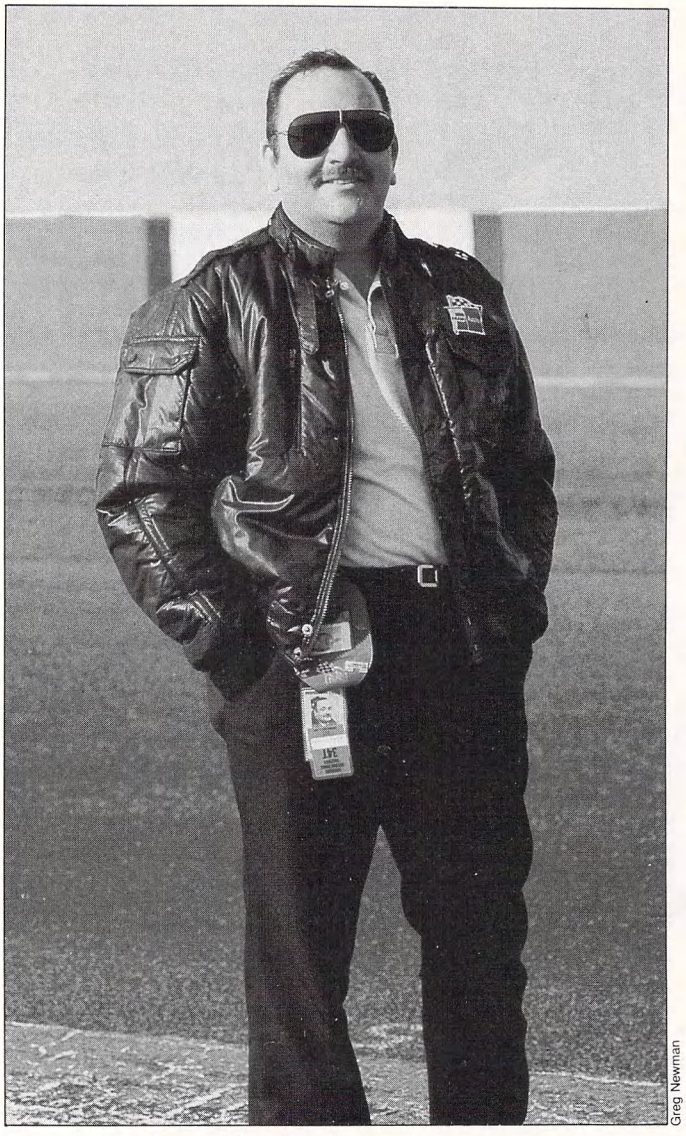
The message that the forum existed was spread through the ranks of the fish organizations. ''Try it, you'll like it,'' was the gist.

Turning casual visitors into active participants was a challenge for Benn and his five assistants. The potential was there — aquarium-keeping is the third largest hobby in North America, behind photography and stamp collecting — but fish online? What could such a forum offer that scores of newsletters, clubs, societies and federations could not?

''It has been a blast,'' says member Steve Saunders. ''I've met all sorts of people, from beginners to experts. We've helped each other with fish-keeping problems, water chemistry, feeding, breeding, raising and other techniques. But the ATF Forum is more than a trading shop for information. I recently moved from Toronto to Nova Scotia, and the ATF Forum and CompuServe have been cultural lifelines at times.''

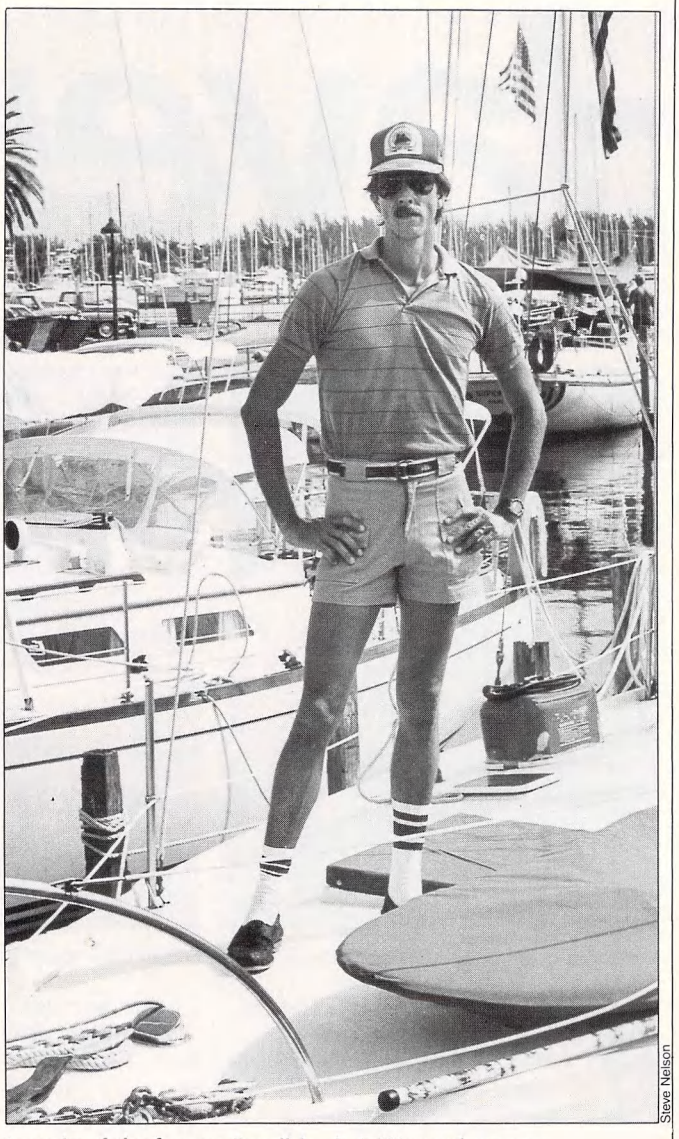
Another hobby forum, HamNet, occasionally discusses lifelines of a different sort — providing radio communication during emergency situations. Although amateur radio has been around since Marconi, its technology is changing so rapidly that the printed word can't keep abreast.

A current innovation, ''packet radio,''



Greg Newman

**From start to finish online:** *Hollander arranges racing coverage*



Steve Nelson

**Captain of the forum:** *Lovell leads 1,000-member crew*

incorporates computers into ham hardware by substituting a radio line for the modem and telephone. The expansion of packet radio is a popular discussion topic for HamNet members, according to Scott Loftesness, a California data processing manager who has served as forum administrator for four of the forum's five years online.

"There's a lot of current information on HamNet that isn't available as quickly in normal kinds of periodicals. It is the kind of information that keeps you on the leading edge of technical developments."

While hobbies based on electronic gadgetry may seem more appropriate for forum activity, non-tech pastimes are equally at home. Try bellying up to the bar at the electronic yacht club or toasting your terminal during a Wine Forum tasting party.

"We've had online tastings with guest wine makers, and we've gone on location to the Napa Wine Auction," says Jim Kronman, a Los Angeles-based aerospace industry employee and administrator of the Wine Forum. "Sometimes the logistics are a bit hairy, but that wasn't the case at the auction. I knew the people involved and had attended most of their auctions, so they understood what I needed and were enthusiastic about the idea."

Going on-site proved to be so much fun that a delegation of West Coast forum members now is considering taking Model 100s to a restaurant for live commentary during a multicourse dinner. "I'm a little skeptical," says Kronman. "To me, restaurant-going isn't a spectator sport."

Experiencing an event through the eyes, ears and tastebuds of a fellow forum member is sometimes the next best thing to being there. CompuServe's Thoirs notes that the Auto Racing Forum has been particularly successful because it often fills the gaps left by newspaper, radio and television reports.

"Where we differ from most other forums is our live coverage of major competitions," says Forum Administrator Mike Hollander. "We provided complete coverage of the 1986 Indianapolis 500 direct from the press room of the Motor Speedway as the event was under way. It is not uncommon for us to cover more than one race. One weekend, *Formula One* editor J. Michael Miller and assistant forum ad-

ministrator George Ryerson were in Detroit for the Grand Prix, Arley Dealey was assigned to the Portland Indy Car race, and I covered the Superbowl of Motocross."

Why would anyone, even the most devoted forum member, opt for online rather than televised coverage of an auto race? Bill Brown, a systems analyst from Columbus, Ohio, who will cover 12 races this year for the forum, explains:

"The advantage to this type of reporting is that it is instant two-way communication. If someone has a question while I'm reporting from the track, he can get an answer right away. Even though a race may be televised, there is always someone somewhere who doesn't have access to a television.

"When I was doing the Indy race, I thought nobody would be checking with CompuServe to learn what was going on, but I was wrong. The French Grand Prix was running at the same time, and we had a reporter covering it. The Racing Forum was the only way the French had of finding out what was going on at Indianapolis. In turn, I let the people at Indy know what was happening in the Grand Prix."

Another plus for race fans is the opportunity to interact with the pros on a one-on-one basis. Sanctioning organizations such as National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing and Championship Auto Racing Teams are represented in the forum as well as professional drivers Chris Kneifel and Randy Zimmer and employees of *On Track*, *AutoWeek* and *National Speed Sport News*. This "rubbing-elbows" feature is present in many forums and is what sets them apart from local hobby groups. The give-and-take is genuine, and sometimes the special guest benefits as much as the hobbyists.

"More than anything else, the Comic Book Forum offers me a chance to talk with other working professionals, exchange information, and develop resources and contacts," says writer J. Michael Straczynski. "When I took the job of story editing "The Real Ghostbusters" for ABC-TV and syndication, I turned almost immediately to the Comic Book Forum to contact writers. The forum performs as more than a center for people with the same hobby; it also is a place where professional writers and artists and publishers gather for purposes directly related to their work."

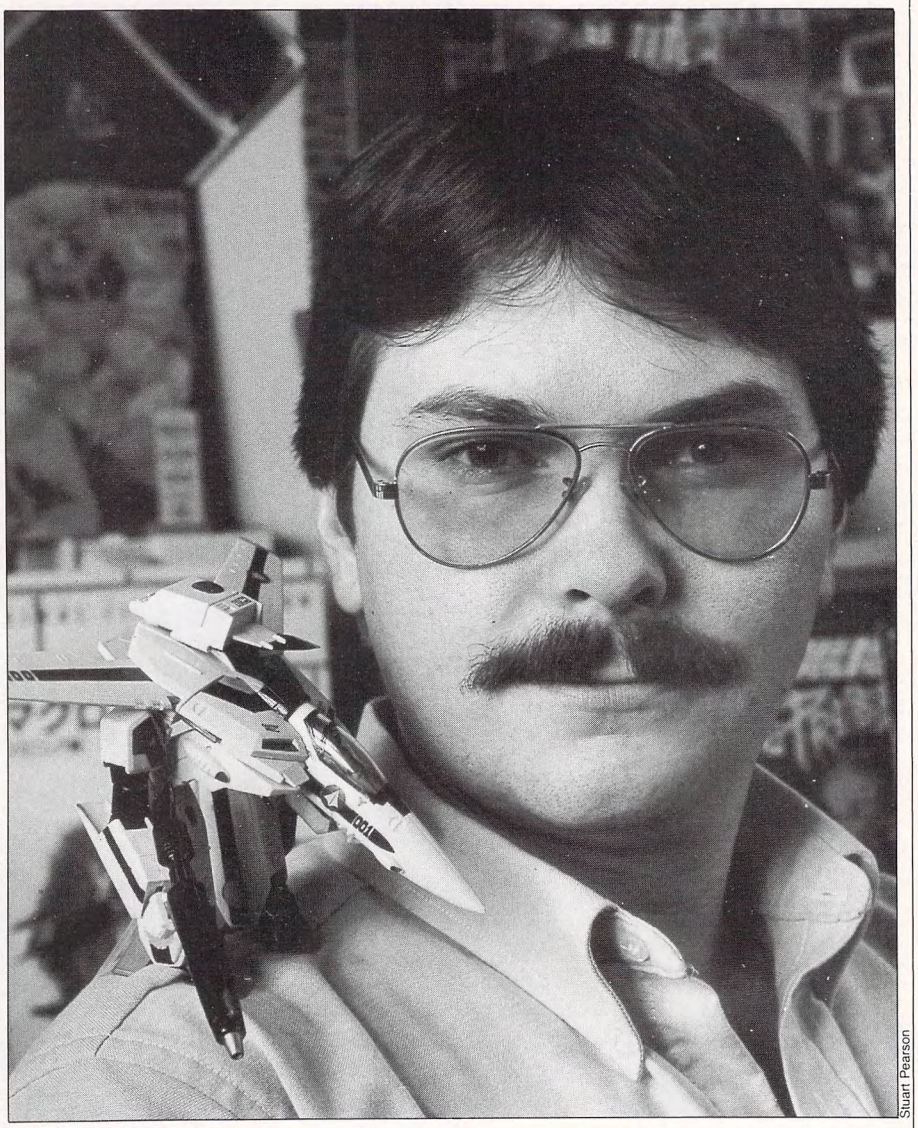
The idea of having a central meeting place just for professionals is being tested by John Benn of FishNet. A special section within the Aquarium and Tropical Fish Forum is available to national and international aquarium societies to tend to the administrative details of their groups. Another section is for the staffs of public aquariums.

"If you are a trained ichthyologist, you don't want to sit there and listen to Mary Jones talk about her angel fish problems," explains Benn. "But you might want to speak with other doctors and professors about your aquarium's interest in trading a baby shark."

If there is a negative side to all the expertise online, it is the danger of a newcomer being overpowered by the knowledge and mystified by the lingo. Strength comes in numbers, and hobby novices as well as veterans need to feel welcome, not intimidated, in the forum environment. As Thoirs says, "A lot of traffic makes it interesting to all members. Adding new people means adding new ideas. A hobby forum won't be successful if the same people dominate it."

HamNet's Loftesness admits that amateur radio has its share of acronyms and buzzwords (Callsigns? Repeaters? QSL cards?) that might confuse newcomers. To ease the beginner into the fold as well as into the jargon, *HamNet Online* was initiated this year. The magazine format is simple to follow and contains special sections addressing such boiler plate information as: What is Amateur Radio, Ham Radio in Space, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, How to Become a Ham, Who are Hams and Ham Radio as a High-Tech Hobby.

Other forums work hard at creating a



Stuart Pearson

**'Funnies' are serious business:** *Wilhelmsen invests in rare comic books*

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* Search charges on these two databases are waived from October 6-10 and 13-17. Base connect time charges are in effect.



friendly, non-threatening ambiance. "We rely on people not being shy about asking questions," says wine expert Kronman, who writes extensively for food and wine publications and edits *The Informed Enophile*. "We try to answer the questions in a way that the person doesn't feel silly for asking. That is how to catch on quickly. It is like trying to learn to play tennis: you'll learn faster if you play with people who are better than you are."

Practical experience helps, too. "It is difficult to be all things to all people," says John Lovell, a sailing and scuba instructor whose current passion is a 12-foot surfboard with a 75-square-foot sail. "We encourage non-sailors and novice sailors to ask questions of the forum population. We want members to associate, interact and exchange information and ideas. We are trying to foster the types of relationships in which a beginning sailor might find someone in his hometown who needs a crew. The novice may not have a boat, but he can go sailing with someone he's met online who does."

Incorporating novice hobbyists into the veteran ranks is just one concern of forum members. The flip side of the dilemma is getting the expert hobbyist, drawn to the forum by the promise of camaraderie, to feel comfortable with his personal computer and fluent in the lingo that accompanies it (Modem? Upload? File transfer?). John Benn of FishNet addressed the problem by launching a voice help line for dedicated fish fans frustrated by the mysteries of telecommunications.

"This is geared to the person who might be a serious aquarium keeper and who wants to learn how to access the forum," says Benn. "If he is hesitant, we can walk him through it. I have had guest scientists who are scared to do a conference. Once they know that nothing but their typing skills are at stake, it is not that difficult."

Forum administrators say that as their forums are advertised more and more in hobby magazines, membership lists are growing. Enthusiasts are becoming involved in CompuServe because of their hobbies rather than becoming involved in hobbies because of CompuServe: Drawn by the shortwave listening section, a member from Stockholm, Sweden, dials into HamNet twice a week; at least 10 members in Japan tune in regularly to discuss Japanimation on the Comic Book Forum; and British members log on periodically to update the SciFi Forum on preparations for the world science fiction convention set for next year in Brighton, England.

Whichever comes first, the computer or hobby, forum members enjoy the diversion that both provide. Gemma Massi, a Stanford University graduate student in English literature specializes in Shakespeare and an obscure poet named Will Davenant during class time. But in her off-hours? Shhhhh. Comics.

"I got hooked on the fun: weather witches, girls walking through walls, flying aliens who protect Earth . . .," she says. "Oh, well, the Bard was pop culture once himself. I'm here for the guilty pleasure of it all. However, these are not the types of characters a struggling grad student can discuss in a respected English department. When I discovered the forum, I was delighted."

So was Robert Scott, a fellow Comic Book Forum member who applauds not just the fun but the convenience as well.

"Every year in San Diego we have what is considered to be the best comic convention in the world," he says. "Professionals and fans gather from everywhere. But it lasts only four days and happens only once a year. The forum gives me a comic convention every day, and all in the privacy of my home."

*Holly G. Miller is a free-lance writer and college professor from Anderson, Ind. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2345.*

## Forums for Hobbyists

The following forums on the CompuServe Information Service are of special interest to hobbyists. To access each one, use the GO command listed to the right. To reach the main menu of hobby-related forums, type GO HOBBIES at any prompt.

| | |
|---|---|
| Auto Racing Forum | GO RACING |
| Comic Book Forum | GO COMIC |
| Ham Radio Forum | GO HAMNET |
| Model Aviation Forum | GO MODELNET |
| Outdoor Forum | GO OUTDOORS |
| Sailing Forum | GO SAILING |
| Tropical Fish Forum | GO FISHNET |
| Wine Forum | GO WINEFORUM |

# Model Aviation Hobbyist Lands Full-Time Career

Doug Pratt admits he has the perfect job. Unlike most hobbyists who have to wait until after hours to play with their "toys," Pratt is usually within arm's length of his model airplanes. They crowd his basement at home and hover over his desk at work. They are the reason he takes 15 business trips a year, and they greet him whenever he logs onto CompuServe.

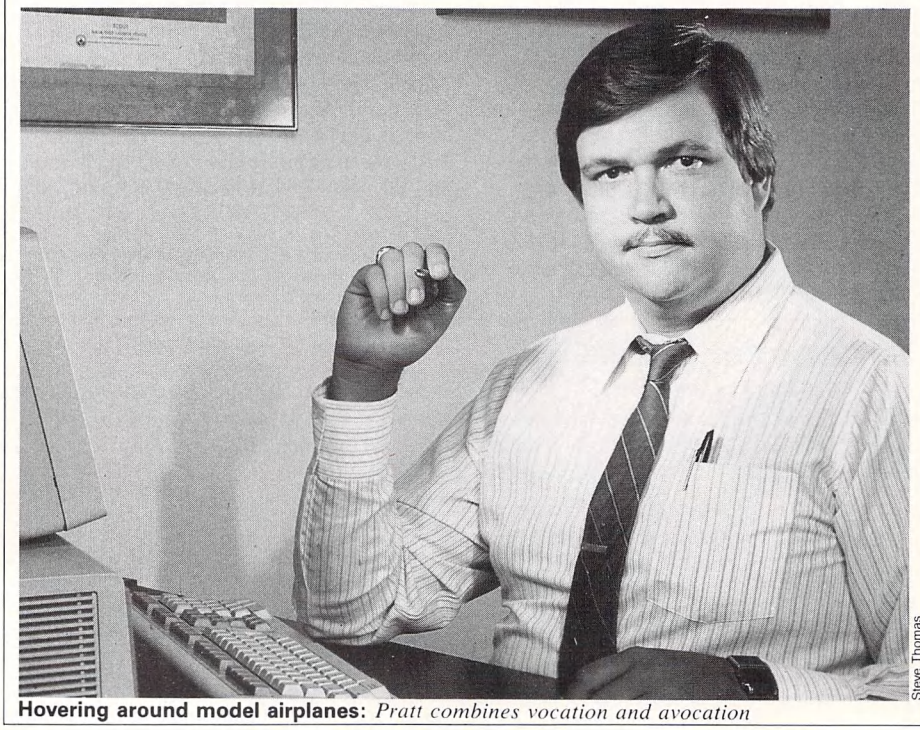
Pratt, forum administrator of ModelNet (part-time), is special projects director for the Academy of Model Aeronautics (full-time) and is the author of three books about modeling (spare time). Burnout is no problem. He simply doesn't have the time.

"Call it insanity, that is the best term I can think of," says Pratt of his dedication. "I've always been fascinated by what people do in their spare time. It seems to me that we live in an age in which many people work at jobs they feel no pride in to keep the wolf from the door and food on the table. I know guys who tighten bolt A on every Chrysler that comes off the assembly line, but go home at night and build full-rigged models of the "Mutiny on the Bounty" or radio-controlled airplanes. They have something they can point to that says, 'I'm special. I did this.' "

For people who think of modeling as no more than a diversion for kids housebound with chicken pox, Pratt offers surprising statistics. The Academy of Model Aeronautics boasts 120,000 members and oversees a competition structure that includes 80 different events. It is housed in spacious headquarters and has the world's largest model airplane museum in Reston, Va. ModelNet alone has attracted 2,200 users since it went live in September 1985.

"This is a remarkably sophisticated, upscale sport," he says. "Our research shows that the average AMA member is 38 years old, has a college degree and a median family income of $45,000. A lot of my generation — the baby boomers — played a bit with model airplanes when they were kids, then discovered girls and cars, went off to college, made their careers and got their families established. Now here they are with a little bit of time and discretionary income, and they remember how much fun they had with model airplanes."

When the enthusiast revisits his neighborhood hobby shop after a lapse of several years, he is amazed at the time warp. He finds a wonderland of gadgetry and gee-whiz technology.



Steve Thomas

**Hovering around model airplanes:** *Pratt combines vocation and avocation*

"Which makes ModelNet such a natural for us," says Pratt.

"The average model airplane flyer is a gadget freak. I'm discovering many of them already have computers. When I first got the forum going and set it up at a couple of trade shows, the question I got was not, 'What do I need to get into this thing?' but rather, 'Which modem do you recommend for my Apple IIe?' "

The computer has meshed nicely into Pratt's lifestyle, since he, too, admits to a fondness for gadgets ("Although I've been involved in static models, I'm more into the kind that fly, move and generally putt around the place"). He likens his basement to the Lockheed skunk works, with a computer terminal at one end, a workshop at the other and building paraphernalia scattered throughout. His current project is a twin-engine aircraft with a scale lighting system, working flaps and a cargo door that opens and closes.

Surrounded by fellow gadget buffs on the job at AMA, he easily convinced them of the value of ModelNet. The forum is an official AMA project, and the organization's elected officials have been outfitted with personal computers.

"Right now, my boss — about 65 years old, a non-technical guy but a terrific modeler — is sitting at his desk answering electronic mail with a Model 100. We are gradually moving into this age, and ModelNet has been a major success story."

Pratt says the forum is like a club meeting that a member can attend whenever he wants, rather than being tied to a certain date at a definite hour.

"Modelers need information. It is difficult to buy all the supplies, go into your basement and come out with a model you can fly yourself. It is a lot like driving a car: You don't climb in and bounce off walls until you figure out how to make it go straight. You need help."

Books are another source of help, and Pratt has written several — one on model rocketry, another on radio-controlled cars and yet another, a sport flyer's handbook. In those projects, too, he blended his two avocations — computing and modeling — to promote his vocation.

"Last year when I was still working on the book about radio-controlled cars, I found myself stuck in O'Hare Airport for three hours," he recalls. "I dialed the local CompuServe number with my Model 100, grabbed a couple of chapters out of my personal file area, hung up the phone and went to work."

*— HGM*

# Explore Exotic Online Destinations...Offline.

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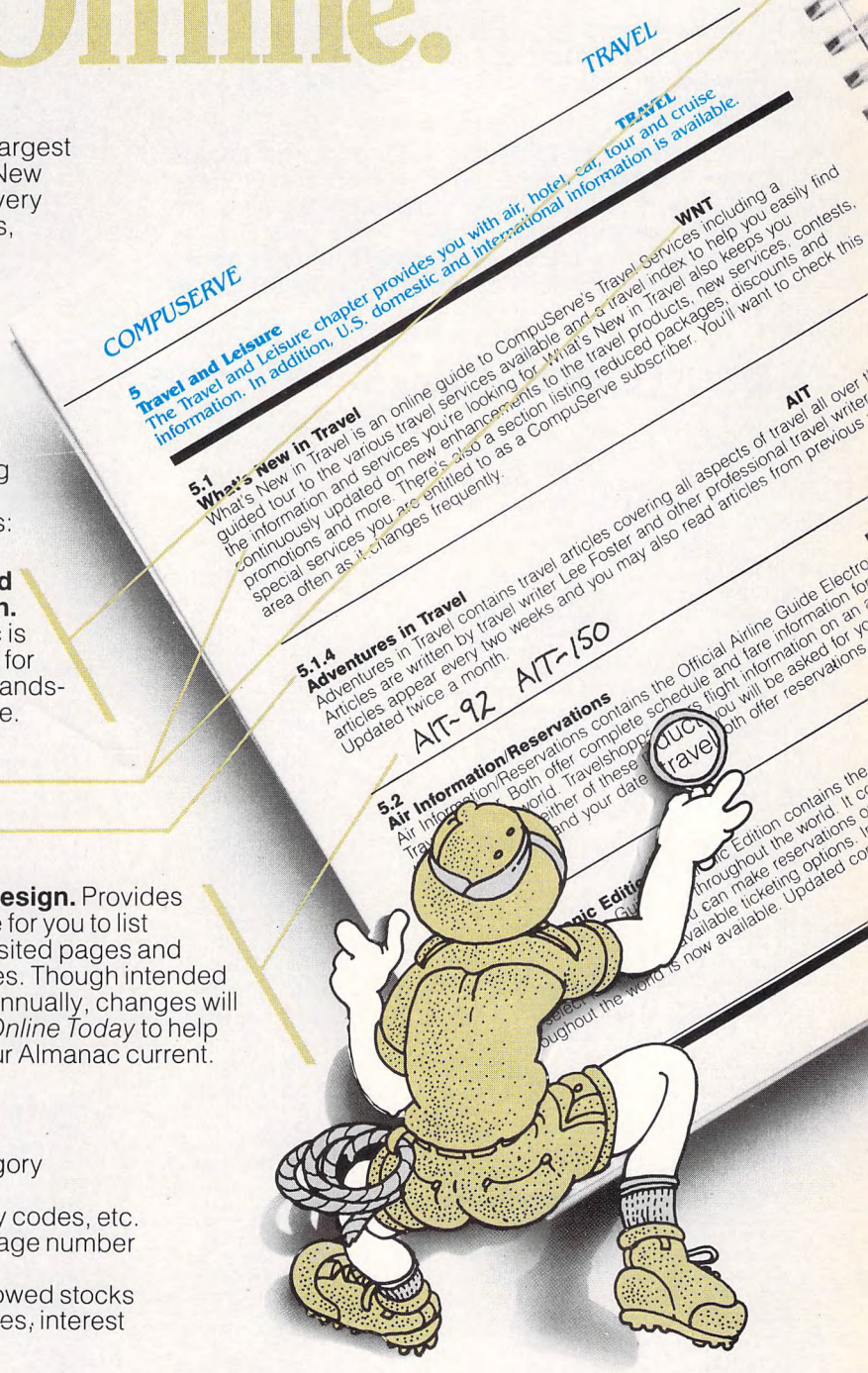
COMPUSERVE
TRAVEL
5 Travel and Leisure
The Travel and Leisure chapter provides you with air, hotel, car, tour and cruise information. In addition, U.S. domestic and international information is available.
TRAVEL
5.1 What's New in Travel
WNT
What's New in Travel is an online guide to CompuServe's Travel Services including a guided tour to the various travel services available and a travel index to help you easily find the information and services you're looking for. What's New in Travel also keeps you continuously updated on new enhancements to the travel products, new services, contests, promotions and more. There's also a section listing reduced packages, discounts and special services you are entitled to as a CompuServe subscriber. You'll want to check this area often as it changes frequently.
5.1.4 Adventures in Travel
AIT
Adventures in Travel contains travel articles covering all aspects of travel all over t
Articles are written by travel writer Lee Foster and other professional travel writer
Articles appear every two weeks and you may also read articles from previous
Updated twice a month.
AIT-92 AIT-150
5.2 Air Information/Reservations
Air Information/Reservations contains the Official Airline Guide Electro
Both offer complete schedule and fare information for
World. Travelshopper's flight information on an
either of these you will be asked for yo
and your date
both offer reservations
throughout the world. It co
can make reservations o
available ticketing options, I
throughout the world is now available. Updated co

**Includes...**
- a Table of Contents organized by product category
- an EasyPlex Address Book worksheet
- lists of abbreviations for state codes, airport city codes, etc.
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# SUBJECT INDEX

Current as of September 1, 1986.

The CompuServe Information Service Subject Index provides a list of the communication and information services available online, and it is updated continually. Refer to the most recent index of services online by entering **GO INDEX** at any prompt.

Use the most direct route to reach a service by entering **GO** followed by the Quick Reference Word provided in the index. Enter this command at any online prompt.

Find the services available under a topic of interest by entering **FIND** and the topic at any online prompt. For example, if you would like to see what services are offered concerning travel, enter FIND TRAVEL. You will receive a list of the services related to travel, along with the Quick Reference Words to proceed to each area.


| **COMPUTING AND TECHNOLOGY** | **GO COMPUTERS** |
|---|---|
| **Personal Computing Forums — Hardware** | |
| Amiga Forum | GO AMIGAFORUM |
| Apple Users Group | GO MAUG |
| Apple II and III User Group — MAUG™ | GO APPTWO |
| Apple User Groups Forum | GO APPUG |
| Macintosh Users Forum — MAUG™ | GO MACUS |
| Macintosh Developers Group — MAUG™ | GO MACDEV |
| Atari User Group (SIG*Atari) | GO SIGATARI |
| Atari 8-Bit Forum | GO ATARI8 |
| Atari 16-Bit Forum | GO ATARI16 |
| Atari Developers Forum | GO ATARIDEV |
| Commodore Users Network | GO CBMNET |
| Commodore Arts and Games Forum | GO CBMART |
| Commodore Communications Forum | GO CBMCOM |
| Commodore Customer Service Forum | GO CBM2000 |
| Commodore Programming Forum | GO CBMPRG |
| Computer Club Forum | GO CLUB |
| DEC PC Forum | GO DECPC |
| DEC Users Network | GO DECUNET |
| PDP-11 Forum | GO PDP11 |
| VAX Forum | GO VAXSIG |
| Epson Forum | GO EPSON |
| Heath User Group | GO HEATHUSERS |
| Hewlett-Packard Series 100 Forum | GO HP |
| IBM Users Network | GO IBMNET |
| IBM Communications Forum | GO IBMCOM |
| IBM Hardware Forum | GO IBMHW |
| IBM Junior Forum | GO IBMJR |
| IBM New Users Forum | GO IBMNEW |
| IBM Software Forum | GO IBMSW |
| Kaypro User Group | GO KAYPRO |
| OMNI OnLine | GO OMNI |
| Orch-90 Computer Music | GO ORCH90 |
| OS9 Operating System Forum | GO OS9 |
| Tandy Users Network | GO TANDYNET |
| Color Computer User Group | GO COCO |
| Fort Worth Computer Chronicles | GO FWCC |
| LDOS/TRSDOS 6 Forum | GO LDOS |
| Model 100/Portables Forum | GO M100SIG |
| OS-9 Forum | GO OS9 |
| Tandy Corporation Newsletter | GO TRS |
| Tandy Professional Forum | GO TRS80PRO |
| Texas Instruments Forum | GO TIFORUM |
| **Personal Computing Forums — Software/Languages** | |
| AI Expert Magazine | GO AIE |
| Ashton-Tate Forum | GO ASHTON |
| Autodesk Forum | GO ADESK |
| Borland International Forum | GO BORLAND |
| Computer Art SIG | GO ARTSIG |
| Computer Club Forum | GO CLUB |
| Computer Consultants Forum | GO CONSULT |
| Computer Language Magazine | GO CLM |
| CP/M User Group | GO CPMSIG |
| Digital Research Forum | GO DRFORUM |
| Forth Forum | GO FORTH |
| LOGO Forum | GO LOGOFORUM |
| LOTUS Forum | GO LOTUS |
| 1-2-3 Software Forum | GO LOTUS123 |
| Jazz Software Forum | GO LOTUSJAZZ |
| Symphony Software Forum | GO SYMPHONY |
| LDOS/TRSDOS 6 Forum | GO LDOS |
| Living Videotext Forum | GO LVTFORUM |
| MicroPro Users Forum | GO MICROPRO |
| Microsoft Forum | GO MSOFT |
| Pascal Forum | GO MUSUS |
| Programmers Forum | GO PROGSIG |
| Software Publishing Forum | GO SPCFORUM |
| Whole Earth Software Forum | GO WHOLEEARTH |
| **Electronic Publications and Other Interests** | |
| AI Expert Magazine | GO AIE |
| ANTIC ONLINE | GO ANTIC |
| Apples Online | GO AOL |
| COMPUTER LANGUAGE Magazine | GO CLM |
| Digital Research Inc. | GO DRI |
| Dr. Dobb's Journal | GO DDJ |
| DR. JOB | GO DRJ |
| FAMILY COMPUTING Magazine Electronic Edition | GO FAM |
| Fort Worth Computer Chronicles | GO FWCC |
| Microsearch | GO MSH |
| OMNI OnLine | GO OMNI |
| Online Today | GO OLT |
| Tandy Corporation Newsletter | GO TRS |
| Texas Instruments News | GO TINEWS |
| The World of LOTUS | GO LOTUS |
| Computing Tutorials | GO PCS121 |
| Personal File Area | PER |
| VIDTEX™ Communication Software | GO VIDTEX |

| **COMMUNICATION** | **GO COMMUNICATE** |
|---|---|
| CB Simulator (Computer Conferencing) | GO CB |
| CB Society | GO CUP |
| Directory of Information Service Subscribers | GO DIRECTORY |
| EasyPlex Electronic Mail | GO EASY |
| National Bulletin Board | GO BULLETIN |
| **Communication-Related Forums** | |
| Citizen's Band Interest Group | GO CBIG |
| Color Mail Exchange Forum | GO HALLMARK |
| Hallmark Color Mail | GO COLORMAIL |
| HamNet Ham Radio Network | GO HAMNET |
| Picture Support Forum | GO PICS |
| Telecommunications Forum | GO TELECOM |

| **NEWS, WEATHER, SPORTS** | **GO NEWS** |
|---|---|
| AP Sports Wire | GO SPORTS |
| AP Videotex Wire | GO APV |
| The Business Wire | GO TBW |
| Computer Sports World | GO CSW |
| Executive News Service© | GO ENS |
| Hollywood Hotline | GO HOLLYWOOD |
| IQuest — The Online Reference Resource | GO IQUEST |
| ONLINE TODAY Electronic Edition | GO ONLINE |
| Sports News | GO SPORTS |
| ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH | GO SPD |
| Weather Reports, Forecasts, Maps | GO WEATHER |
| **News and Sports Forums** | |
| Auto Racing Forum | GO RACING |
| Journalism Forum | GO JFORUM |
| National Issues and People Forum | GO ISSUES |
| OMNI OnLine | GO OMNI |
| Online Computer Report | GO OCC |
| Outdoors Forum | GO OUTDOORS |
| Sailing Forum | GO SAILING |
| Sports Forum | GO HOM-110 |

| **TRAVEL SERVICES** | **GO TRAVEL** |
|---|---|
| ABC Worldwide Hotel Guide | GO ABC |
| Adventures in Travel | GO AIT |
| American Express Travel Services | GO AXP |
| Discover Orlando | GO ORLANDO |
| Educational Travel Connection | GO ETC |
| National Tourism Citilog | GO CITIES |
| Official Airline Guide EE | GO OAG |
| Pan American Travel Guide | GO PANAM |
| Rocky Mountain Connections | GO ROCKIES |
| State Department Travel Briefings | GO STATE |
| Sun in Sand Vacations | GO SNS |
| Travelshopper℠ | GO TWA |
| TravelVision | GO TRV |
| Vermont Tourism | GO VERMONT |
| VISA Advisors | GO VISA |
| West Coast Travel | GO WESTCOAST |
| What's New in Travel | GO WNT |
| WorldWide Exchange | GO WWX |
| **Travel-Related Forums** | |
| Florida Travel | GO FLORIDA |
| Travel | GO TRAVSIG |

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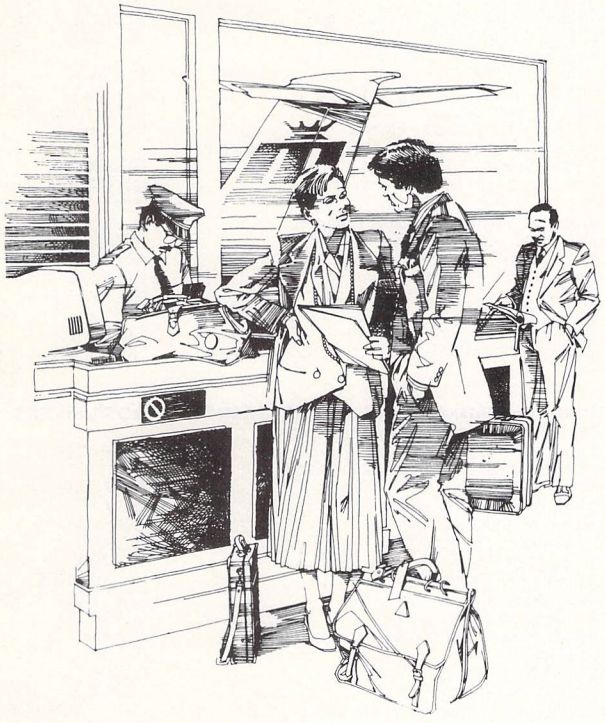


**Aviation Services**
Aviation Services ... GO AVIATION
Airline Flight Information ... GO FLIGHTS
AOPA Forum ... GO AOPA
Aviation Forum ... GO AVSIG
Aviation Safety Institute ... GO ASI
Flight Planning and Weather Briefings ... GO EMI
Service Difficulty Reports ... GO ASI
Weather Maps ... GO MAPS
Weather Reports and Forecasts ... GO AWX

---

**SHOPPING SERVICES** — **GO SHOP**
Comp-u-store OnLine ... GO CUS
CompuServe's SOFTEX Software Sales ... GO SOFTEX
CompuServe's Online Product Ordering ... GO ORDER
New Car Showroom ... GO NEWCAR
The Electronic Mall™ (selected merchants) ... GO MALL

**Apparel/Accessories**
Athlete's Outfitters ... GO ATH
Apparel Concepts for Men ... GO APC
Birkenstock Footwear ... GO BF
Casual Tee's ... GO CA
International Fur Wholesalers ... GO RF
Milkins Jewelers ... GO MJ
Woodstock Leather Co ... GO BAG

**Auto**
American Tire Buyers ... GO ATB
AMS/Oil Dealer ... GO AMS
Buick Motors ... GO BU
Chevy Showroom ... GO CHV

**Books**
Bantam Books ... GO BB
Christian Book Store ... GO DII
The McGraw-Hill Book Company ... GO MH
Mercury House ... GO MER
Waldenbooks ... GO WB

**Career/Self-Help**
Teledata*Guide ... GO TDG
Wayside Systems ... GO WS

**Computing**
Compu-Game ... GO CPG
Computer Express ... GO CE
Conroy-LaPointe ... GO CL
Discount Computers ... GO DSC
The Heath Company ... GO HTH
1-800-FLOPPYS ... GO DSK
Marymac Industries Inc ... GO MM
Misco Computer Supplies ... GO MO
Sears, Roebuck and Co ... GO SR
Software Discounters of America ... GO SDA
World of Computers ... GO WOC

**Financial**
Beneficial National Bank ... GO BNB
Citibank ... GO CI
Colonial National Bank USA ... GO CN
Equitable Life ... GO EL
Max Ule Discount Brokerage ... GO MU
Sun Life Group ... GO SLG

**Gifts/Gourmet**
Alaska Teleshopper ... GO AK
Coffee Emporium ... GO COF
Executive Engraver ... GO EX
Fifth Avenue Shopper ... GO FTH
Florida Fruit Shippers ... GO FFS
Hawaiian Isle ... GO HI
The Grower's Store ... GO SDG
Hobbit Hole/Wyandotte Wines ... GO HH
Lincoln Manor Baskets ... GO LM
Lobster Market ... GO SEA
Morrow's Nut House ... GO NUT
Simon David ... GO SIM
Topgar Tobaccos ... GO TG
Walter Knoll Florist ... GO WK

**Home/Leisure**
Cosmic Concepts ... GO CC
The Game Getters, Inc ... GO GG
Music Alley Online ... GO MAO
Rin Robyn Pool ... GO RR
Vacuum Advance ... GO VCS

**Merchandise/Electronics**
American Express ... GO AXM
American Airlines Catalog ... GO AA
Electronic Gadget Store ... GO EGS
Electronics Mart ... GO ELM
Nationwide Catalog Shopper ... GO NCS
Savings Scan ... GO SAV
Sears, Roebuck & Co ... GO SR
Sunland Camera ... GO SUN
Xerox Direct Marketing ... GO XDM

**Online Services**
Globalink ... GO GLO
EF Hutton ... GO EF
NewsNet ... GO NN
Official Airline Guides ... GO OA
Videolog ... GO VL

**Periodicals**
CW Communications ... GO CW
Dow Jones & Co ... GO DJ
EBSCO Magazine Entree ... GO ME
Ecopress ... GO ECO
USA TODAY ... GO US

**Premium Merchants**
American Express ... GO AXM
Bloomingdale's By Mail ... GO BL
Neiman-Marcus ... GO NM
Tiffany & Co ... GO TIF

**Records/Movies**
CBS/Fox Video ... GO CF
Express Music CDs ... GO EMC
Magic Castle Video ... GO MV
RCA Direct Marketing ... GO RC
Record World ... GO RW

**Sports/Health**
Barracuda Sports Products ... GO BP
Carolina Health & Fitness ... GO HF
VitaMenagerie Discount Vitamins ... GO VM

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American Airlines ... GO AA
Ameropa Travel ... GO AT
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| Bond Prices & Volumes Since 1973 | GO BONDS |
| Bond Interest Payments | GO BONDS |
| Brokerage Services | GO BROKER |
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| Commodity Market News & Analysis from AgriCommodities | GO ACI |
| Company Information from Standard & Poor's | GO S&P |
| Company Information from Disclosure II℗ | GO DISCLOSURE |
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| Diamond Information from Rappaport's Diamond Service | GO RDC |
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| Stock Market Highlights | GO MARKET |
| Spreadsheet Interfaces for Securities Data | GO INTERFACES |
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| Tax & Benefit Information from the Social Security Administration | GO SSA |
| U.S. Dollar Outlooks from Money Market Services | GO MMS |

**Online Banking and Brokerage Services**

| | |
|---|---|
| Huntington National Bank, Columbus, Ohio | GO HNB |
| Max Ule & Co. (Brokerage Services through Tickerscreen) | GO TKR |
| NCNB National Bank, Charlotte, N.C. | GO NCB |
| PSFS, Philadelphia | GO PSFS |
| Quick & Reilly (Brokerage Services through Quick Way) | GO QWK |
| Rappaport Diamond Brokers | GO RDC |
| Shawmut Bank, Boston | GO SHW |
| Southeast Bank, Miami, Florida | GO SEB |
| Unified Management (Mutual Fund Services from Liquid Green) | GO UMC |
| United American Bank, Memphis | GO UAB |

**Financial and Investment Forums**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ashton-Tate Support Library | GO ASHTON |
| Ask Mr. Fed Forum | GO ASKFED |
| Financial and Investment Forums | GO FINFORUMS |
| Investors | GO INVFORUM |
| Questions & Answers on the Economy from Money Market Services | GO MMS |
| World of LOTUS (LOTUS 1-2-3, Symphony, Jazz) | GO LOTUS |

| BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND REFERENCE | GO BUSINESS |
|---|---|
| American Association of Medical Systems and Informatics Communications | GO AAMSI |
| American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists | GO ACOG |
| American Express® Advance | GO AXP |
| Aviation and Flight Planning | GO AVIATION |
| AP Videotex, Business | GO APV |
| The Business Wire | GO TBW |
| Calculate Net Worth | GO FINANCE |
| Checkbook Balancer | GO CHECKBOOK |
| Communications Industry | GO MEDIA |
| Executive News Service℗ | GO ENS |
| DR. JOB | GO DRJ |
| EdVENT II | GO EDV |
| Fedwatch Newsletter | GO MMS |
| Independent Insurance Agents Association | GO INSURANCE |
| Industry Directories℗ | GO DIR |
| Information USA | GO IUS |
| Internal Revenue Services | GO IRS |
| IQuest — The Online Reference Resource | GO IQUEST |
| Loan Amortization | GO FINANCE |
| Microsearch | GO MSH |
| PaperChase (MEDLINE) | GO PCH |
| Rare Disease Database | GO RDB |
| Social Security Administration | GO SSA |
| Stevens Business Reports | GO SBR |
| SuperSite Demographic Information℗ | GO SUPERSITE |
| U.S. Government Publications | GO GPO |
| World-Wide Investment System | GO REAL ESTATE |

**Reference and Training Forums**

| | |
|---|---|
| Association for the Dev. of Computer-based Instructional Sys. | GO ADCIS |
| Disabilities Forum | GO DISABILITIES |
| Educational Products Information Exchange | GO EPIEFORUM |
| Working From Home | GO WORK |

**Industry and Professional Forums**

| | |
|---|---|
| American Association of Medical Systems and Informatics | GO MEDSIG |
| Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association | GO AOPA |
| Aviation Forum | GO AVSIG |
| Broadcast Professional Forum | GO BPFORUM |
| Communications Industry | GO MEDIA |
| Consumer Electronics Forum | GO CEFORUM |
| Independent Computer Consultants Association | GO ICCAFORUM |
| Int'l. Entrepreneurs Network | GO USEN |
| Journalism Forum | GO JFORUM |
| Legal Forum | GO LAWSIG |
| Military Veterans Services | GO VET |
| Public Relations and Marketing | GO PRSIG |
| Safetynet Forum | GO SAFETY |
| Telecommunications | GO TELECOM |
| Work From Home | GO WORK |
| Writers and Editors | GO WESIG |

| HOME, HEALTH & FAMILY | GO HOME |
|---|---|
| Calculate Net Worth | GO FINANCE |
| Checkbook Balancer | GO CHECKBOOK |
| Directory of Public Officials | GO DPO |
| HealthNet | GO HNT |
| Home Management | GO HOME |
| Human Sexuality | GO HSX |
| Independent Insurance Agents Association | GO INSURANCE |

Information USA ..... GO IUS
Internal Revenue Services ..... GO IRS
Loan Amortization ..... GO FINANCE
Naked Eye Astronomy ..... GO NIA
The National Satirist ..... GO KCS
New Car Showroom ..... GO NEWCAR
Personality Profile ..... GO TMC
Social Security Administration ..... GO SSA

**General Interest Forums**
Aquarium & Tropical Fish ..... GO FISHNET
Comic Book Forum ..... GO COMIC
Consumer Electronics ..... GO CEFORUM
Disabilities Forum ..... GO DISABILITIES
Family Computing Forum ..... GO FAM
Food/Wine Forums ..... GO FOOD
Good Earth Forum ..... GO GOODEARTH
Ham Radio Forum ..... GO HAM
Human Sexuality ..... GO HSX
Literary Forum ..... GO LITFORUM
Music Forum ..... GO MUSICFORUM
Model Aviation Forum ..... GO MODELNET
National Issues and People Forum ..... GO ISSUES
Online Computer Connection ..... GO OCC
Religion ..... GO RELIGION
Science Fiction ..... GO SCI-FI
Space Forum ..... GO SPACEFORUM
WITSIG ..... GO WITSIG
Work From Home ..... GO WORK

**EDUCATION AND REFERENCE** — **GO EDUCATION**

**Education**
The College Board ..... GO TCB
Educational Travel Connection ..... GO ETC
Educational Products Information Exchange (EPIE) ..... GO EPE
EdVENT II ..... GO EDV
Handicapped Users' Database ..... GO HUD
Peterson's College Guides ..... GO PCG
The Multiple Choice ..... GO TMC
Touch-Type Tutor ..... GO TMC
The Whiz Quiz ..... GO WHIZ
Science Trivia ..... GO SCITRIVIA
Rehabilitation Database ..... GO REHAB

**Reference**
Academic American Encyclopedia ..... GO ENCYCLOPEDIA
Directory of Public Officials ..... GO DPO
U.S. Government Publications ..... GO GPO
Information USA ..... GO IUS
IQuest — The Online Reference Resource ..... GO IQUEST
Microsearch ..... GO MSH
SuperSite Demographic Information Ⓔ ..... GO SUPERSITE

**Education Forums**
Assoc. for the Development of Computer-based Instructional Systems Forum ..... GO ADCIS
Disabilities Forum ..... GO DISABILITIES
Educational Products Information Exchange Forum ..... GO EPIEFORUM
Educational Research Forum ..... GO EDRESEARCH
Educators Forum ..... GO EDFORUM
Foreign Language Education Forum ..... GO FLEFO
LOGO Forum ..... GO LOGOFORUM
Science and Math Education Forum ..... GO SCIENCE
Students' Forum ..... GO STUFO
Space Forum ..... GO SPACEFORUM

**ENTERTAINMENT AND GAMES** — **GO GAMES**

**Entertainment**
Hollywood Hotline ..... GO HHL
Movie Reviewettes ..... GO MOVIES
Rocknet ..... GO ROCK
Soap Opera Summaries ..... GO SOS

**Board/Parlor Games**
Astrological Charter ..... GO ASTROLOGY
Baffle Word Game ..... GO BAFFLE
Biorhythm Charting ..... GO BIORHYTHM
Casino Blackjack ..... GO MPBLACK
Hangman ..... GO HANGMAN

**Trivia/Thought Games**
The Multiple Choice ..... GO TMC
Word Scramble ..... GO SCRAMBLE
The Whiz Quiz ..... GO WHIZ
SHOWBIZQUIZ ..... GO SHOWBIZ
You Guessed It! ..... GO YGI
The Traveler's Challenge ..... GO ETC-81
Science Trivia ..... GO SCITRIVIA

**Adventure Games**
Original Adventure ..... GO ORADVENT
New Adventure ..... GO NEWADV
House of Banshi ..... GO BANSHI
Scott Adams Adventure Games ..... GO ADAMS
Island of Kesmai ..... GO KESMAI
CastleQuest ..... GO CQUEST
BlackDragon ..... GO BLACKDRAGON
Castle Telengard ..... GO CASTLE

**Sports Games**
Golf ..... GO GOLF
Football ..... GO FOOTBALL

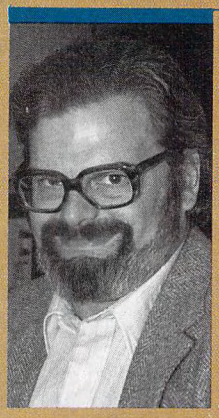
**War Games/Simulations**
MegaWars I ..... GO MEGA1
Megawars III ..... GO MEGA3
SpaceWAR ..... GO SPACEWAR
SeaWAR ..... GO SEAWAR
Command Decision ..... GO COMDEC

**Games Forums**
The Electronic Gamer ..... GO TEG
The Gamer's Forum ..... GO GAMERS
The Multi-Player Games Forum ..... GO MPGAMES


Ⓔ indicates service available only through the Executive Option.

GO EBB or circle 43 on the Reader Service Form.

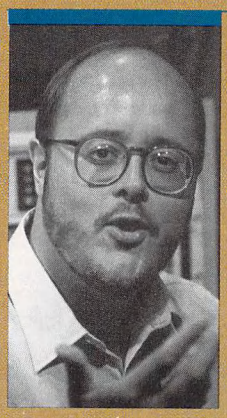
# MEDIA PROS CON



*"In the past the only time we could exchange information was at annual conventions."*

John Hoffman

Broadcast Professional Forum



*"The combination of the Journalism Forum and CompuServe's resources could change the way journalists do their work."*

Jim Cameron

Journalism Forum

Making the day's news come alive in a newspaper, magazine or television broadcast is a high-tech endeavor. Gone are the Royal typewriters and vidicon cameras; in their place are sleek computer word processors and minicams.

One thing that will never change is the famed "old boy — or girl — network," although thanks to several CompuServe forums, media professionals have a new way to network online.

Designed for radio and television broadcast engineers, the Broadcast Professional Forum (GO BPFORUM) offers a chance to share in the latest industry news on equipment, production techniques, local and network programming, and policies of the Federal Communications Commission.

A unique feature of the forum is an area containing article summaries from nearly 30 professional publications. Users can scan the summaries online and then read the actual article in print.

Forum members are from nearly every network and major station group as well as free-lancers and land-mobile radio professionals. In addition, the forum serves the membership of the Audio Engineering Society and the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

Hot topics of discussion usually are based on information found in *InCue Online* (GO INCUE), an online publication with industry information on television, radio, land-mobile news, reviews, article summaries, new product announcements and more. Past editions of *InCue Online* are stored in the Broadcast Professional Forum data libraries.

"In the past, the only time we could exchange information like this was at annual conventions," says John Hoffman, forum administrator and an engineer in videotape operations at NBC-TV in New York City.

"If someone asks about a problem with a piece of equipment, he may or may not get an answer from the company's service representative. If that question is asked in this forum, he'll get several answers within a day's time.

"This is the next step, following annual conventions and publication of papers, in exchanging information," he says. "You can learn almost anything online or be told where to find it."

The Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM) is designed for professional journalists in the print and broadcast media as well as those considering careers in this area.

Forum Administrator Jim Cameron, a radio news announcer with the Source Radio Network, views the forum as a grassroots support system. He hopes to link all journalists and editors through the forum, so, for example, an editor in Boise, Idaho, looking for a stringer in Erie, Pa., could instantly make connections.

There is a database of experts, a resource for writers seeking new sources to quote. To access this index, journalists must first submit the names and phone numbers of five experts from any field. Sharing sources is new to most reporters but it is working well, according to Cameron, who says, "We've created an electronic Rolodex of about 1,000 names. Its value was apparent after the accident at Chernobyl when our members turned to the expert index to find scientists who could comment on the accident."

In addition to discussions about newspapers, television and radio, Journalism Forum members have an equipment exchange and a job bank.

Cameron believes the potential of the forum is unlimited. "The combination of the Journalism Forum and all of CompuServe's resources, such as the Associated Press and United Press International wires, IQuest and the Official Airline Guide, could change the way journalists do their work. No longer will a laptop computer be little more than an electronic typewriter."

The *Online Today* CompuServe Connection (GO OCC) is managed by the writers and editors of *Online Today* magazine and functions as a gathering place for newcomers to the CompuServe Information Service.

"The folks who work on *Online Today* have been around the system a long time. There is a wealth of talent here,

*"There's a wealth of talent here, making it an excellent place for a newcomer to get fast, accurate answers."*

Pamela Bowen

*Online Today* CompuServe Connection

*"The best part of the Public Relations and Marketing Forum is its function as an idea generator."*

Ron Solberg

Public Relations and Marketing Forum

*"WESIG provides a place for creative ideas to flow between writers who otherwise would not know each other."*

Hardin Brothers

Writers and Editors Forum

# NECT ELECTRONICALLY

making it an excellent place for a newcomer to get fast and accurate answers," says Forum Administrator Pamela Bowen who answers everything from how to upload and download to how to find a particular forum — all within 24 hours.

"OCC is different from most forums in that we serve as a kind of traffic cop, directing users to other areas of CompuServe. We're like a 24-hour welcome wagon. This is one stop subscribers can make to learn all the information they'll need to use the system. It also is an ideal place to learn how to use a forum, how to post messages and access the data libraries," explains Charles Bowen, co-author of *How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe* (Bantam Books).

The Public Relations and Marketing Forum (GO PRSIG) brings together individuals interested in public relations, sales promotion, advertising, marketing, the media and education.

In addition to the lively exchange of messages on the bulletin board, the forum hosts Thursday evening conferences called "The Front Page." Conducted like a public interview, the conferences feature timely topics and guests.

Led by Forum Administrator Ronald Solberg, second vice president in charge of corporate affairs for Continental Illinois Bank of Chicago, the PR Forum is involved in several innovative projects.

An online book, designed to be the definitive work on computers and public relations, was published electronically last spring. The book offers proven, practical applications of how computers are being used by public relations professionals around the country. With little or no emphasis on computer or communications theory or philosophy, it is hoped the volume will inspire and guide many who wonder what they can do with their computers. Edited by David Colmans, an advertising executive in Atlanta, Ga., and assistant forum administrator, the book features sections such as electronic publishing, electronic messaging, desktop publishing and conducting online research.

The Electronic Brain Trust, developed by Solberg, is an assembly of online experts who discuss and take action on a particular issue or problem. A pool of skilled, computer-literate professionals with a variety of backgrounds and interests is maintained in a central videotex file. Individuals needing the services of the brain trust access the file, select appropriate participants, negotiate fees and conduct an online meeting.

Solberg says the best part of the forum is its function as an idea generator. "It is like the book title, *A Whack on the Side of the Head.* At any given time, you might find an unusual thought you had never considered before that brings everything else into focus."

The Writers and Editors Forum (GO WESIG) is a gathering place for technical writers and editors as well as the home of the National Writers Union.

Special features of the forum include a marketplace data library with a cross-index of computer-oriented publications and contacts as well as frequent conferences that offer valuable tips on writing techniques and publishing.

Forum Administrator Hardin Brothers says the forum is an excellent place for new writers to come for help, since many of WESIG's members are seasoned professionals. Brothers says a main purpose of the forum is to serve as an online connection between writers and magazine editors. Writers can leave queries and editors can leave assignments, avoiding the problems of telephone tag and different time zones.

"WESIG provides a place for creative ideas to flow between writers who otherwise would not know each other. Free-lance writers are pretty isolated people normally. CompuServe provides a unique way for them to interact as a community," says Brothers.

*— Cathryn Conroy*

# Escort Refuses!

***Dear Customer,*** ***From: Drew Kaplan***

Escort turned down our $10,000 head to head challenge described below. Escort says that Maxon's Radar Detector is "primitive", "bottom-end" and "an off-shore produced electronics 'gadget' ". I don't know about you, but to me these words conjure up visions of a cheap toy being produced off in the middle of a rice paddy somewhere in the middle of nowhere.

Escort, on the other hand, which is made in the U.S., exudes a high cost, quality image. Don't you just bet that it costs a fortune to build Escort and Passport (the smaller version)?

Well, we are going to challenge Escort **AGAIN** to a head to head 'duel to the death' on Maxon's electronic merits alone. And, we plan to win. But first there are a few things you should know.

Cincinnati Microwave, the company that makes Escort & Passport, is a public company. And being public, they have to file financial information with the SEC.

The public information they have published appears to show that in the year that ended Dec. 1985, Cincinnati Microwave with "substantially all of its revenues and profits derived from the sale of radar warning receivers" made an operating profit of about $45,810,000 on sales of about $112,605,000. Wow!

The $45 million profit is after all engineering, selling and General & Administrative expenses, but before taxes.

Their cost of sales (goods) was only about $40,027,000. So, if you divide $40,027,000 by $112,605,000 it doesn't take a genius to figure out that cost of goods represents an average of only about 35.5% of selling price. Wow!

I only bring up their profit to illustrate that a high retail price doesn't always mean a high manufacturing cost.

There's no question in my mind that Maxon can manufacture cheaper in an off-shore 'rice paddy', but if you pay $245 for Escort or $295 for Passport, it should be based on a head to head test with Maxon, not on perceived retail price points.

**FORGET PRICE COMPLETELY**

So, forget that Escort costs $245, Passport $295, and Maxon $99.90. Let's judge them on their own merits. And, let's look at just what Escort itself has to say about our challenge. (Please read DAK's and Escort's letters to the right.)

Escort says that, **"Regardless** of the results, such an event lends credibility to the challenger." Well, they are absolutely correct. That's why I put up the $10,000 in the first place. Fair is fair.

Plus, there are several radar detectors that claim to have won this or that ranking in "Independent Magazine Reviews." So, I'm ignoring any reviews and asking for a one on one, head to head test.

***But look at what Escort says in their letter:*** "Range is the easiest detector quality to measure, but by no means the only important quality." Wow, I thought range was really important?? Escort refers to "goodness" being determined by things not so easily measured.

Well frankly, I don't know how to measure "goodness". Escort, in my opinion, is a top notch company. They make a superb product I'd be proud to sell. And, they have great customer service.

DAK has great toll free technical and regular customer service. But, I'd be the first to admit that with over $45 million in profits, Escort can probably run circles around us in advertising, and maybe even in service. But, I don't think they can beat Maxon's Radar Detector.

**HOW GOOD IS GOOD?**

When Escort was introduced, it was revolutionary. But, you can only go so far. And in my opinion (someone else might object), radar detecting has gone about as far as it can go. So, while Escort has made improvements, it's Maxon who has moved mountains to catch up.

**DAK UPs THE ANTE TO $20,000**

Now I realize that next to $45 million dollars, $20,000 isn't much, but it's a lot to DAK. And, I'll even go one step farther. I'll print the exact results of the test, win, lose, draw, or no-show in the first catalog I publish after January 1, 1987.

Escort, the ball is now in your court. Below is the **"NEW"** version of my challenge with the time and amount changed.

I don't know what else DAK or Maxon can do to prove that the RD-1 Superheterodyne Detector should be judged on its head to head performance against Escort, not on its selling price!

WAS $10,000

# A $20,000 Challenge To Escort

***Let's cut through the Radar Detector Glut. We challenge Escort to a one on one Distance and Falsing 'duel to the death' on the highway of their choice. If they win, the $20,000 (was $10,000) check pictured below is theirs.***

By Drew Kaplan

We've put up our $20,000 (was 10). We challenge Escort to take on Maxon's new Dual Superheterodyne RD-1 $99.90 radar detector on the road of their choice in a one on one conflict.

Even Escort says that everyone compares themselves to Escort, and they're right. They were the first in 1978 to use superheterodyne circuits and they've got a virtual stranglehold on the magazine test reports.

But, the real question today is: 1) How many feet of sensing difference, if any, is there between this top of the line Maxon Detector and Escort's? And 2) Which unit is more accurate at interpreting real radar versus false signals?

So Escort, you pick the road (continental U.S. please). You pick the equipment to create the false signals. And finally, you pick the radar gun.

Maxon and DAK will come to your highway with engineers and equipment to verify the results. And oh yes, we'll have the $20,000 check (pictured) to hand over if you beat us by more than 10 feet in either X or K band detection.

**BOB SAYS MAXON IS BETTER**

Here's how it started. Maxon is a mammoth electronics prime manufacturer. They actually make all types of sophisticated electronic products for some of the biggest U.S. Electronics Companies. (No, they don't make Escort's).

Bob Thetford, the president of Maxon Systems Inc., and a friend of mine, was explaining their new RD-1 anti-falsing **Dual** Superheterodyne Radar detector to me. I said "You know Bob, I think Escort really has the market locked up." He said, "Our new design can beat theirs".

So, since I've never been one to be in second place, I said, "Would you bet $20,000 (10) that you can beat Escort?" And, as they say, the rest is history.

By the way, Bob is about 6'9" tall, so if we can't beat Escort, we can sure scare the you know what out of them. But, Bob and his engineers are deadly serious about this 'duel'. And you can bet that our $20,000 (was $10,000) is serious.

. . .Next Page Please

. . .Challenge Continued

**We ask only the following.** 1) The public be invited to watch. 2) Maxon's Engineers as well as Escort's check the radar gun and monitor the test and the results.

3) The same car be used in both tests.

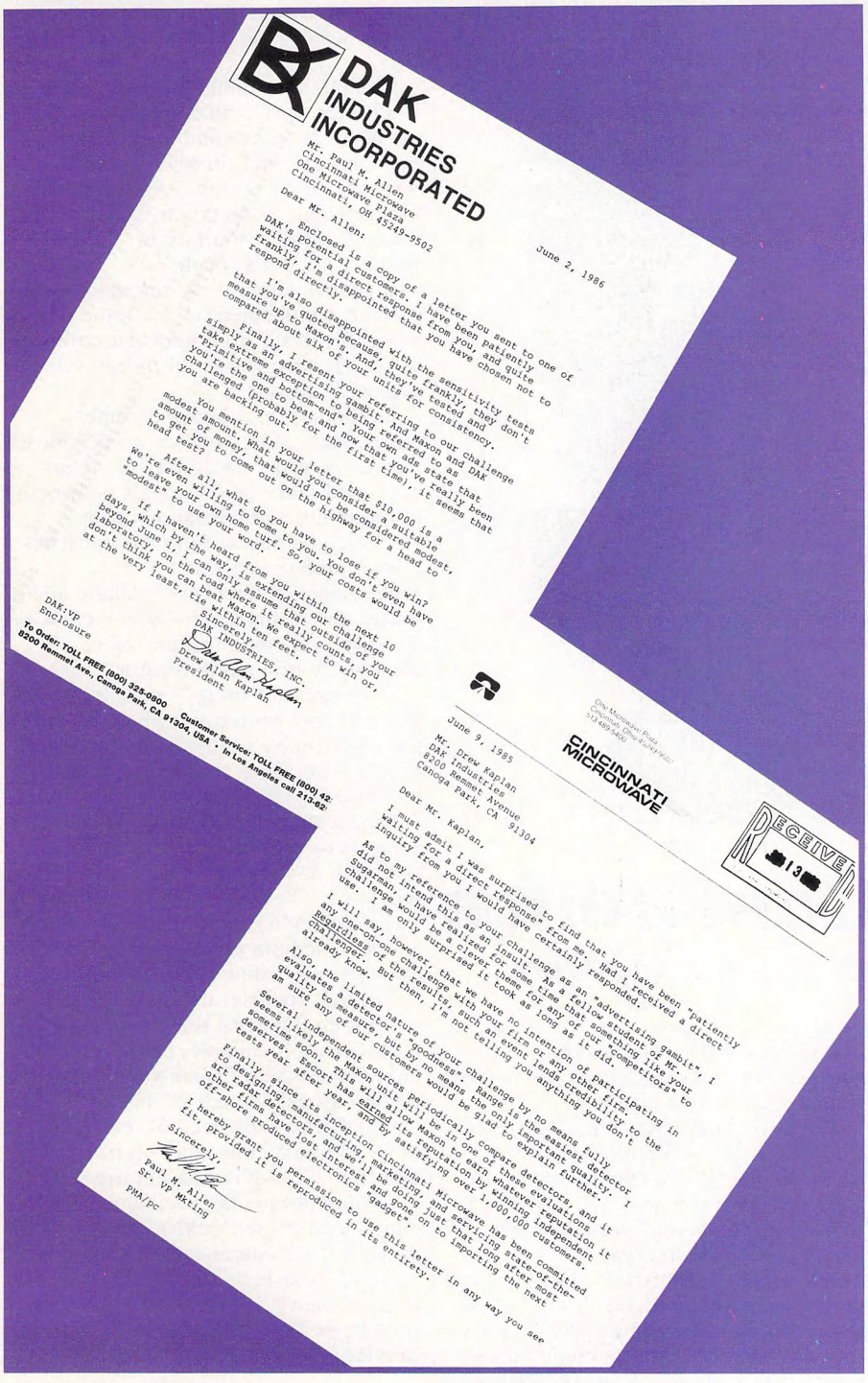
4) We'd like an answer from Escort no later than December 31, 1986 and 60 days notice of the time and place of the conflict. And, 5) We'd like them to come with a $20,000 (was $10,000) check made out to DAK if we win.

into action in just 1/4 of one second.

Just imagine the sophistication of a device that can test a signal 4 times in less than 1/4 of one second. Maxon's technology is mind boggling.

**But, using it isn't.** This long range detector has all the bells and whistles. It has **separate** audible sounds for X and K radar signals because you've only got about 1/3 the time to react with K band.

There's a 10 step LED Bar Graph Meter to accurately show the radar signal's



DAK INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED

Mr. Paul W. Allen
Cincinnati Microwave
One Microwave Plaza
Cincinnati, OH 45249-9502

June 2, 1986

Dear Mr. Allen:

DAK's Enclosed is a copy of a letter you sent to one of waiting potential customers. I have been patiently frankly, for a direct response from you, and quite respond directly. I'm disappointed that you have chosen not to

I'm also disappointed with the sensitivity tests that you've quoted because, quite frankly, they don't measure up to Maxon's. And, they've tested and compared about six of your units for consistency.

Finally, I resent your referring to our challenge simply as an advertising gambit, and Maxon and DAK take extreme exception to being referred to as "primitive one-trick-pony". Your own add state that you're the one to beat and now that you've been challenged (probably for the first time), it seems that you are backing out.

You mention in your letter that $10,000 is a modest amount. What would you consider a suitable amount of money, that would not be considered modest, to get you to come out on the highway for a head to head test?

After all, what do you have to lose if you win? We're even willing to come to you. You don't even have to leave your own home turf. So, your costs would be "modest" to use your word.

If I haven't heard from you within the next 10 days, which by the way, is extending our challenge beyond June 1, I can only assume that outside of your laboratory, on the road where it really counts, you don't think you can beat Maxon. We expect to win or, at the very least, tie within ten feet.

Sincerely,
DAK INDUSTRIES, INC.
Drew Alan Kaplan
President

DAK:vp
Enclosure

DAK INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED
8200 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304 USA • Customer Service: TOLL FREE (800) 42-
To Order: TOLL FREE (800) 325-0800 • In Los Angeles call 213-82-

CINCINNATI MICROWAVE

RECEIVED 13

June 9, 1986

Mr. Drew Kaplan
DAK Industries
8200 Remmet Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91304

Dear Mr. Kaplan,

I must admit I was surprised to find that you have been "patiently waiting for a direct response from me. Had I received a direct inquiry from you I would have certainly responded.

As to my reference to your challenge as an "advertising gambit", I did not intend this as an insult. As a fellow student of Mr. Superman, I have a clever theme for any of our "competitors" challenge would be a clever theme for any of our "competitors" to use. I am only surprised it took as long as it did.

I will say, however, that we have no intention of participating in any one-on-one challenges with your event or ends credibility to the results such an event or ends credibility to the Regardless of the results such an event or ends credibility to the challenger. But then, I'm not telling you anything you don't already know.

Also, the limited nature of your challenge by no means fully evaluates a detector's goodness. Range is the easiest detector quality to measure, but by no means the only important quality. I am sure any of our customers would be glad to explain further.

Several independent sources periodically compare detectors, and it seems likely that Maxon will be in one of these evaluations in the near future. Escort has earned its reputation by winning independent tests year after year, and by satisfying over 1,000,000 customers.

Finally, since its inception Cincinnati Microwave has been committed to designing, manufacturing, marketing, and servicing state-of-the-art radar detectors, and we'll be doing just that long after most other firms have lost interest and gone on to that next big off-shore produced electronics "gadget".

I hereby grant you permission to use this letter in any way you see fit, provided it is reproduced in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Allen
Sr. VP Mktng

PWA/pc

## SO, WHAT'S DUAL SUPERHETERODYNE?

Ok, so far we've set up the conflict. Now let me tell you about the new dual superheterodyne technology that lets Maxon leap ahead of the pack.

It's a technology that tests each suspected radar signal 4 separate times before it notifies you, and yet it explodes

strength. And, you won't have to look at a needle in a meter. You can see the Bar Graph Meter with your peripheral vision and keep your eyes on the road and put your foot on the brake.

So, just turn on the Power/Volume knob, clip it to your visor or put it on your dash. Then plug in its cigarette lighter cord and you're protected.

And you'll have a very high level of protection. Maxon's Dual Conversion Scanning Superheterodyne circuitry combined with its ridge guide wideband horn internal antenna, really ferrets out radar signals.

**By the way Escort,** we'll be happy to have our test around a bend in the road or over a hill. Maxon's detector really picks up 'ambush type' radar signals.

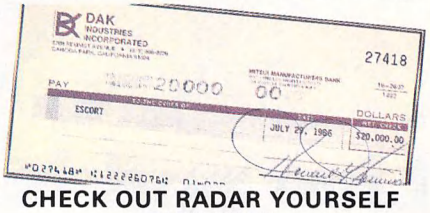
And the key word is 'radar', not trash signals. The 4 test check system that operates in 1/4 second gives you extremely high protection from signals from other detectors, intrusion systems and garage door openers.

So, when the lights and X or K band sounds explode into action, take care, there's very likely police radar nearby. You'll have full volume control, and a City/Highway button reduces the less important X band reception in the city.

Maxon's long range detector comes complete with a visor clip, hook and loop dash board mounting, and the power cord cigarette adaptor.

It's much smaller than Escort at just 3½" Wide, 4¾" deep and 1½" high. It's backed by Maxon's standard limited warranty. Note from Drew: 1) Use of radar detectors is illegal in some states.

2) Speeding is dangerous. Use this detector to help keep you safe when you forget, not to get away with speeding.




## CHECK OUT RADAR YOURSELF RISK FREE

Put this detector on your visor. When it sounds, look around for the police. There's a good chance you'll be saving money in fines and higher insurance rates. And, if you slow down, you may even save lives.

If you aren't 100% satisfied, simply return it in its original box within 30 days for a courteous refund.

To get your Maxon, Dual Superheterodyne, Anti-Falsing Radar Detector risk free with your credit card, call toll free or send your check for just **$99.90** ($4 P&H). Order No. 4407. CA res add tax.

OK Escort, it's up to you. We've got $20,000 (10) that says you can't beat Maxon on the road. Your answer, please?

Escort and Passport are registered trademarks of Cincinnati Microwave.

**DAK INDUSTRIES INC.**
Call Toll Free For Credit Card Orders Only
24 Hours A Day 7 Days A Week
**1-800-325-0800**
For Toll Free Information, Call 6AM-5PM Monday-Friday PST
**Technical Information. . . . 1-800-272-3200**
**Any Other Inquiries. . . . . 1-800-423-2866**
**8200 Remmet Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91304**

**Advising aspiring songwriters:** *Manilow makes guest appearance in RockNet*

# Live and in Conference

## *RockNet Presents Manilow, Foreigner and More*

The first time I saw Barry Manilow in concert, I was perched in the rafters of Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum. My companions and I had "student bargain" tickets that required two weeks training just for the climb. The ceiling spotlights blinded our vision as we peered at the tiny figures on the stage below. Manilow seemed miles away.

The next time I saw Manilow, I had front row seats — in my living room — and he was discussing his career, his new book and Linda. Manilow and I were in the RockNet Forum along with about 100 other people. This time Manilow was *talking* with members of the "audience."

"Hi everyone. I hear that we're all making history here tonight," opened Manilow. He was right. This conference in the RockNet Forum marked the first guest appearance of a Grammy, Tony and Emmy Award-winner online.

Manilow sought aspiring songwriters from the group, offered advice on writing lyrics and talked about using work from unknown artists. "My advice is to write from the heart," said Manilow. "I learned that the hard way."

The Manilow conference was the first of its size in RockNet, but it was not this forum's first online glimpse of a celebrity musician. RockNet hosts conferences every night at 10 p.m. EST, and rock and pop music stars are among the guest speakers. In addition to Manilow, Foreigner drummer Lou Gramm, MTV program director Les Garland, record producer William Whitman, and musicians from Night Ranger and Foghat have talked with RockNet members.

Reaching beyond concerts and videos, the conferences erase the distance from coliseum seat to stage floor, and from television set to recording studio, as musicians chat with RockNet members.

Lou Gramm, online from his home in Rochester, N.Y., talked with RockNet about his two sons and about being Italian "through and through." Asked whether he minds fans approaching him in public, Gramm answered, "No, unless I have a mouthful of pasta. . .then it's tough!"

Manilow, already a CompuServe subscriber, commented on the value of the direct feedback from fans and critics alike. "It was wonderful for my self-esteem," he said.

In addition to scheduled conferences, musicians, producers, rock music managers, program directors, technicians and other professionals often join in impromptu conversations with RockNet members. With the participation of professionals and non-professionals interested in talking about music, the forum's activity is increasing steadily, according to Les Tracy, RockNet forum administrator.

"The greatest thing," says Tracy, "is that so many people contribute. We offer the opportunity to join a community of people who share an interest in the cutting-edge of the industry. Rock'n'roll is producing new, exciting groups and projects — especially now — and the old rulebook has been thrown out the window." The fast-changing environment of rock'n'roll makes CompuServe an ideal medium for keeping up with the industry, according to Tracy.

"In the RockNet database, we are putting up the news that *Rolling Stone* magazine, for example, prints a month later. The secret of RockNet's success is attention to the needs of the CompuServe audience. We make it a point to update our news stories daily and to build useful data libraries."

Conferences with special guests are announced in the RockNet bulletin area. To read the conference bulletins, discuss rock music and get the latest music industry news, type GO ROCK at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

*— Mary Ellen Stone*

# Free Uploads

## *New Commands, Upload Capability in Forums*

CompuServe Information Service forum users have a free uploading capability and several new command options (released in July) and more changes are planned for the future.

"The forum enhancements are the result of input from subscribers and forum administrators," says Sharon Baker, CompuServe's manager of forum products. "The objective of the enhancements and new options is to help subscribers make more efficient use of their time while in the forums."

CompuServe Information Service subscribers now can upload files to any forum data library without incurring a connect time charge for the actual time of data transmission. A credit for the uploading time will be issued to CompuServe subscribers who upload files.

In addition to the free uploading capability, the major enhancements are a multiple subtopic setting, the capability to send EasyPlex messages within the forum and a more comprehensive HELP feature. Additional changes in the forum menu structure allow for easier online navigation and more customized command settings.

- The multiple subtopic setting will give subscribers the ability to selectively choose subtopics from which to read messages.
- With the EasyPlex capability added to the forums, a subscriber can store a message directly to another subscriber's EasyPlex mailbox instead of exiting the forum and accessing EasyPlex to compose and send the message.
- The online HELP facility available within the forums now offers three levels of assistance, organized such that subscribers can receive general or detailed HELP on various topics.
- Subscribers now can use CompuServe navigational commands, such as FIND, GO, SET and PROFILE at most forum prompts to navigate the Information Service more easily.
- For complete information on the new forum enhancements, subscribers can type NEW at the function prompt of any CompuServe Information Service forum.

Watch for another new version of the forum product to be released later this fall.


# It's third down and six.

## You call the play.

Football is here on CompuServe, and you're the coach. Punt? Pass? It's your decision. Pick your team, and call the plays. Watch as your players "march" confidently down the field. . .or get smothered by your opponents at their own five yard line. Send in the plays (at the touch of a button) and take the credit for that masterful scoring drive.

Ah, but watch the defense. A fumble here and an interception there, and you'll be carrying the water bucket again. Stiff competition? Of course! That's why your team's success depends on your armchair quarterbacking skill. (You have been practicing all season, haven't you?)

So, c'mon and play Football. Those Cowboys aren't so tough!

CompuServe®

5000 Arlington Centre Boulevard
Columbus, Ohio 43220

To play Football select "Entertainment/Games" from the Home Service menu or type GO FOOTBALL

# NEW PRODUCTS

### American Express Adds Features

American Express ADVANCE recently has enhanced its travel and investment offerings.

The American Express Pocket Travel Guides are designed to help make travel more enjoyable. These pocket-sized guides contain more than 200 pages of information on hotels, restaurants and sightseeing; suggested itineraries; four-color maps; and a glossary and index. There are guides for London, Paris, New York, California, Greece, Rome, Mexico, Florence, Tuscany, England and Wales, Venice, southern France and Spain.

Each book is $8.95 plus postage and handling. More information about the guides is available on the travel section of ADVANCE. GO AXP

### NORD Services Adds Information

The Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome Update section of NORD Services contains new information from the Food and Drug Administration on the drug isoprinosine, refuting claims made by its manufacturer that it is effective in treating patients with AIDS.

In addition, the NORD Services/Rare Disease Database has added more than 35 new entries to the Rare Disease Database and now contains information on more than 250 rare disorders. GO RDB

Gerhold/Smith

### Forum for Fish Enthusiasts Added

The Aquarium and Tropical Fish Forum now is available on the CompuServe Information Service. This forum supports informational exchanges between professional fish breeders, aquarists and home aquarium hobbyists.

More than 250 articles are available in the data libraries. The ATF Forum staff includes leading aquarists and scientists from locations throughout the country. GO FISHNET

### Halloween Tricks and Treats

CompuServe subscribers with Hallmark Color Mail, the Electronic Greeting Factory, now can send electronic Halloween greetings complete with witches, skeletons, spooky music and ghostly sound effects.

Color Mail Libraries of traditional and non-traditional graphics are available for Halloween "tricks and treats." Subscribers can download Costume Design Libraries and enter the Masked Ball Contest sponsored by the Color Mail database.

A special Halloween edition of *The International Quagmire*, an online/offline scandal magazine, also is available. Special Color Mail libraries of celebrities and bogus products are offered so subscribers can add graphics and sounds to the online articles they submit to *Quagmire*. GO HALLMARK

### Color Mail Adds Scandal Rag

*International Quagmire*, an online scandal rag created offline by CompuServe subscribers with Hallmark Color Mail, the Electronic Greeting Factory!, is now available.

C-Mailers can use their software to create and electronically publish feature stories to fill regular Quagmire columns like "Star Gropers," "Believe It or What," "Fantasy Ads" and "Help Yourself." The stories can be downloaded and enjoyed by other C-Mailers. Quagmire also features comics, horoscopes and "Pointers to the Passionate," C-Mailers' answer to Dear Abby. GO COLORMAIL

### YGI! Has New Game Operators

*You Guessed It!* now has three game operators — Rosey Dawn, Harlette and Warlok — who act as real-time hosts. The game operators, known as GameOps, will assist new and experienced players with questions on team assembly, commands and game procedures.

Players may leave questions and comments for the game's producers through the "Suggestion Box" option on the YGI! main menu. GO YGI

### HamNet Magazine Now Online

*HamNet Online*, an amateur radio/shortwave listeners online magazine, is now available to CompuServe subscribers. This new service offers feature articles, regular columns, easy access to electronic editions of amateur radio/shortwave listeners newsletters, an extensive reference library and more. Subscribers can obtain new information as soon as it becomes available rather than waiting for a print magazine to arrive in the mail. GO HAM

## Gift of Time

*Online Today* offers subscribers the chance to write a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

Your essay should be typed double-spaced. Send it to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or by an Email message to 70003,1661. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

If we use your column, you will receive 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) and a byline.

Gerhold/Smith

### Journalist Uses CompuServe to Extend Newsroom

I am a journalist for a daily newspaper that purchased two Tandy Model 100s two years ago to extend the capabilities of the newsroom. Through CompuServe, I have transformed my Model 100 into a telecomputing tool.

Since a journalist has to be an "expert" on a variety of topics, often on short notice, the information offered on CompuServe is invaluable. With CompuServe, I can get the background information I need for asking intelligent questions, regardless of the topic.

Another useful feature of CompuServe is the Journalism Forum (GO JFORUM), including an equipment exchange, a job file and a stringers file.

Mark W. Hodapp
Centralia, Ill.

### Games Guide Available

A new guide for CompuServe games now is available for ordering from CompuServe. The handy 160-page manual includes detailed information about commands used in the games, tips on how to play the games and hints about how to communicate with other players during games. In addition, the manual includes information about using the Gamers' Forum, the Multiplayer Games Forum and CompuServe's online games magazine, *The Electronic Gamer.*

The guide includes reference cards for the following games: *BlackDragon*, *Multiplayer Blackjack*, *Command Decision*, *Island of Kesmai*, *MegaWars I*, *MegaWars III*, *SeaWar*, and *SpaceWar.* The reference cards contain a simplified list of commands for the games; they may be taped on the subscriber's monitor or placed between the keyboard keys for handy referral. The ordering number for the guide is CS607. GO ORDER

## *MegaWars I* Enhanced

A revised version of the popular multiplayer game, *MegaWars I — The Galactic Conflict*, now is available on the CompuServe Information Service.

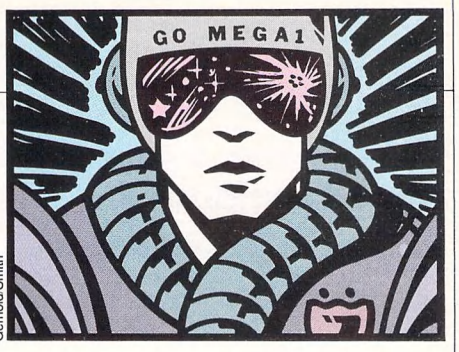
The new version has several advantages, including improved capabilities for team playing, a decrease in the pause time between commands, and an updated helpfile. The membership file now is "cleaned" on the basis of rank; higher ranks are maintained in the file longer than lower ranks. Finally, the addition of "black holes" contributes to the challenge of the game.

*MegaWars I* is a real-time space battle for one to 10 players. The object is to destroy all bases and ships and to capture all enemy planets before the enemy does the same to you. By capturing enemy planets and building up their defenses, you not only gain points but also allies to help you battle the enemy.

To get help in playing the game, players can access the game's helpfiles, ask questions in the Multiplayer Games Forum and purchase the new CompuServe Games Manual with detailed instructions on how to play the game. To order the manual, type GO ORDER at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service and select "Users Guides," "Games," from the menus. The order number for the manual is CS607.

To access the Multiplayer Games Forum, type GO MPGAMES.

To access *MegaWars I*, type GO MEGA1 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.



Gerhold/Smith

## Answers from Customer Service

**Q: Where can I find help with using EasyPlex?**

A: Check the CompuServe Users Guide. The guide offers easy-to-follow directions and examples to help you use EasyPlex. If you are unsure of which command to use, simply type HELP at any EasyPlex prompt for a list of commands that are valid at that point. EasyPlex then will prompt you to "type HELP selection or <CR> to continue." Then you can type in one of the commands for further details or press the Return key to go back to the last EasyPlex prompt. You also can find answers to many commonly asked EasyPlex questions in Customer Service's Online Question and Answer database. To access Q&A, type GO QUESTIONS at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

**Q: Is it true that CompuServe and MCI Mail subscribers can send electronic messages to one another?**

A: Yes. To send electronic messages from one system to the other, use the following instructions. To send mail from EasyPlex to MCI Mail:

1. You will need to know the MCI User ID number or the subscriber's registered name.
2. Type /send >MCIMAIL: MCI ID or type /send >MCIMAILRegistered Name. The registered name is the subscriber's name as he or she has registered it with the MCI Mail directory.

To send mail to EasyPlex from MCI:

1. Use the MCI "Create" command.
2. At the "TO:" prompt, type the EasyPlex subscriber's name followed by a space and (EMS).
3. At the "EMS:" prompt, type CompuServe.
4. At the "MBX:" prompt, type the CompuServe User ID number.
5. You can receive more help by typing "HELP COMPUSERVE."

**Q: Where can I access information on the latest features and enhancements to EasyPlex?**

A: You can type NEWS at the EasyPlex main menu prompt and receive news on the latest features added to EasyPlex.

**Q: Is it possible to retrieve a message once it has been deleted?**

A: Yes. If you accidentally delete a message, it is possible to get it back by typing UNDELETE at the EasyPlex Main Menu *if* you still are in the current EasyPlex session.

**Q: I have received several messages that I do not wish to read. Is there a way to delete these messages without reading them?**

A: Yes. You can delete a message without reading or rereading it by using the DELETE command. You will be prompted for the message you wish to delete or be given an option to delete all messages.

*Note: All messages sent with a return receipt feature will send a return receipt to the sender even if you delete the message without reading it.*

**Q: I accidentally changed my settings to "prompt" mode. How can I get back to the "menu" node?**

A: In the EasyPlex area, you can type SET MODE MENU to automatically change to menu mode for that session. To permanently change back to menu mode, be sure to select "Set Options" and change the option for "Mode of Operations" to menu.

### Q&A Database Available

CompuServe's Customer Service now offers a Question and Answer area providing CompuServe Information Service subscribers with the opportunity to troubleshoot many problems themselves.

The questions are compiled from those most frequently asked by subscribers, and the answers are provided immediately. The Q&A area can help subscribers to quickly and easily find information. The service now contains answers to billing questions and more topics will be added in the future. GO QUESTIONS

## New Games, Programs Added to Forums

The data libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are only a few of the files uploaded to the data libraries in recent months.

For a more up-to-date list of uploads, check the "Uploads" column in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service. New columns are added twice monthly.

### AMIGA FORUM
(GO AMIGAFORUM)

**Monopoly Game** — Written in ABasic C, this program puts one human against three computer opponents. File MONOPO.ARC in Data Library 5.

### ATARI 8-BIT FORUM
(GO ATARI8)

**Classic Arcade Game** — A public domain version of a popular arcade game for Atari 8-bit computers. File MYRIAP.XMO in Data Library 1.

### ATARI 16-BIT FORUM
(GO ATARI16)

**Grid Exploration Game** — Called Celestial Caesars, this game's object is to explore the grid and gain control of as many planets as possible. For Atari 16-bit computers. File CELEST.PRG in Data Library 1.

### BORLAND FORUM
(GO BOR-100)

**Guess The Colors Game** — This game is written in Borland's new Turbo Prolog language and based on the popular board game **Mastermind**. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File MIND.PRO in Data Library 6.

### FAMILY COMPUTING FORUM
(GO FAMFORUM)

**VideoPencil Program Files** — The four files required to use VideoPencil, a high-resolution, multicolor lightpen drawing program, are available for the Commodore 64. Files VIDPEN, VPML0, VPML2 and VPML3 in Data Library 3.

### GAMERS' FORUM
(GO GAMERS)

**Online Games Schedule** — The current schedule of online games and regular conferences is posted and updated frequently. File GAMES.LST in Data Library 0.

### IBM COMMUNICATIONS FORUM
(GO IBMCOM)

**Message Retrieval System** — For use with CompuServe forums and EasyPlex, the system includes a full-function editor for writing new messages and replies. Supports only direct CompuServe node numbers. Features include an internal database for User ID numbers, forum section names and saved messages. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File ZAPCIS.ARC in Data Library 0.

**PC-TALK Upgrade** — The latest upgrade of this communications program is now available for IBM PCs and compatibles with PC-DOS 3.0 or later. File PCTC.ARC in Data Library 3.

### IBM HARDWARE FORUM
(GO IBMHW)

**Printer Disable File** — This file for IBM PCs and compatibles disables the printer timeout in DOS to prevent a machine lock-up if you send to the printer something that is not online. File PRTFIX.COM in Data Library 2.

**Scrolling Banner Program** — This program contains an editor for creating messages and changing colors. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File BANNER.LBR in Data Library 3.

**Reset Utility** — A utility for IBM PCs and compatibles, this program disables the [CONTROL-ALT-DELETE] sequence for resetting the computer so that the machine must be turned off to be rebooted. File NORSET.COM in Data Library 4.

### IBM PC JR. FORUM
(GO IBMJR)

**PCjr Product List** — The latest list of PCjr products and manufacturers now is available and includes addresses, phone numbers and pricing information. The list is maintained by the National PCjr Users Group. File PCJRPD.004 in Data Library 3.

### IBM NEW USERS FORUM
(GO IBMNEW)

**Detective Simulation Game** — In this game you'll find clues to solve a "whodunnit." For IBM PCs and compatibles. File SAMSPD.ARC in Data Library 3.

**Arcade-style Shooting Game** — The player flies a helicopter through tunnels set with differing degrees of difficulty. Joystick supported but not required. Color graphics adapter is required. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File STRIKE.ARC in Data Library 5.

**Bridge Game** — A game of contract or duplicate bridge that you can play against the computer. File BRIDGE.BQS in Data Library 6.

**Archery Game** — A color graphics archery skills game. Color system required. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File ARCHRY.ARC in Data Library 6.

**Humor Program** — When you type "HI" at the DOS prompt on this program, you'll get a humorous saying or joke. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File HI.ARC in Data Library 6.

### IBM SOFTWARE FORUM
(GO IBMSW)

**Search Utility** — This "find file" and "textsearch" utility features SCAN multiple disks and FIND in any directory. It also allows you to search textfiles by word, prefix or suffix. For IBM PCs and compatibles. File PS2.ARC in Data Library 3.

### INVESTORS' FORUM
(GO MMM-18)

**Bond Calculation Program** — A program for the Commodore 64 and compatibles

## How to Download Files

To download these or nearly any other programs or textfiles from forum data libraries, you must have a computer that permits storage of incoming information from your modem (generally a hard disk or a floppy disk system). You also need a terminal program that can receive the incoming information and direct it to your disk.

To begin a download, type DL plus the data library number, then press the Return key at the forum's Function Menu. At the Data Library prompt, type DOW, and then a space, and finally the name and extension (if any) of the file you want to download. Then, press the Return key.

You will be asked which protocol you will be using to download the file. CompuServe's own "A" and "B" protocol and XMODEM are error-checking transfer protocols, meaning the transfer will be without errors that can cause the program to fail. Be sure you know which of these protocols your terminal program supports. The DC2/DC4 CAPTURE protocol is particularly good for downloading text files stored in ASCII code. This protocol is supported by most terminal programs.

For more information about downloading from forum databases, leave a message addressed to SYSOP in the forum that supports your computer system or in the forum where you are attempting the download.

*— DAP*

calculating the yield-to-maturity of a bond when inputs such as price (bond), coupon rate and time-to-maturity (years and months) are entered. File BOND64.C64 in Data Library 2.

### MAUG APPLE II/III FORUM
(GO APPLE)

**External Command Module** — Adds several useful commands to the BASIC.SYSTEM command interpreter, including TYPE, PRINT#, DATE, TIME SETINFO, CMD and COPY. The commands can be accessed in the same way standard ProDOS commands are accessed. File PPLUS.EXE in Data Library 1.

**AppleWorks Reentry Method** — A description of a method to get back into AppleWorks after exiting the program with a [CONTROL-RESET]. File RESCUE.TXT in Data Library 4.

**Apple Team Transcript** — An edited transcript of the Apple Team conference with top-level Apple executives on CompuServe. File ATEAM.CO in Data Library 4.

**Number Game** — A computer version of the game in which 15 numbers are moved around on a plastic board so they will be in order. File FIFTEE in Data Library 5.

### MAUG MACINTOSH USERS FORUM
(GO MACUS)

**Upgraded Systems Programs** — A series of upgraded systems programs for the Macintosh. The data files and the programs they contain include INSTAL.BIN (System Installation: Installer, Version 2.2), EXTDRV.UPD (System Installation: External Drive, Version 1.0), FDAMOV.BIN (System Installation: Font/DA Mover, Version 3.2), FINDER.BIN (System Installation Finder, Version 5.3), HD20.BIN (System Installation: Hard Disk 20, Version 1.1), MACPLS.UPD (System Installation: Mac Plus Update, Version 1.1) and SYSTEM.BIN (System Installation: System, Version 3.2). All of these files are in Data Library 1.

**Desk Accessory for Handicapped** — This desk accessory allows handicapped users to operate the Mac entirely with the mouse. File MOUSEKEY.BIN in Data Library 1.

**New Time/Date Program** — A new version of Info+ for the Macintosh allows for the modification of the time, date and speaker through a pull-down menu. File IN201.BIN in Data Library 1.

**Formatting Utility** — A new utility lets users format multiple blank disks quickly. Works with the Macintosh with 128K, 512K, MacPlus or Hyperdrive. File FASTFO.BIN in Data Library 1.

**LaserWriter Utility** — This utility prevents the LaserWriter from printing out a test sheet of directions each time it is used for manual feed printing. For the Macintosh. File MANUAL.BIN in Data Library 2.

**Tic-Tac-Toe Game** — An infinite Tic-Tac-Toe game for the Macintosh is available as file MACLUF in Data Library 4.

### OMNI FORUM
(GO OMNI)

**Writers' Guidelines** — *OMNI* magazine's writers' guidelines for submitting manuscripts are available in the OMNI Forum. File GUIDE.TXT in Data Library 4.

### TANDY PROFESSIONAL FORUM
(GO TRS80PRO)

**Loan Amortization Program** — A loan amortization program for the Tandy 2000 now is available under file AMORT2.BIN in Data Library 4.

Breaking New Ground
We're the leader in interactive programs
Tired of the hard sell on TV and in magazines? Try SELF SKETCH, the interactive way to get personalized financial information. Or use our tax program to find out how much YOU can save with an IRA.
Our new department can save you time and money
Whether or not you currently use a broker, check into Equico Securities discount brokerage and find out how much better we really are.
Stop by and visit us
Do you have a question about insurance or other financial services? Ask our ONLINE AGENT. He'll get back to you through electronic mail, usually within 24 hours. No obligations.
Go EL. Try one of our fast, interactive programs. You'll find that the Equitable really is breaking new ground.
THE EQUITABLE
Financial Services
GO EBB or circle 10 on the Reader Service Form.

## Mall Merchants Offer Hobby Kits, Products

Many CompuServe subscribers will find merchants specializing in their hobby or special interest at The Electronic Mall. Here is a look at four such merchants offering specialized hobby products:

Heathkit, a pioneer in the design and production of electronic products in kit form, puts the world of kit-building at a hobbyists' fingertips. Browse the online catalog featuring more than 400 products in 16 categories, ranging from automotive to marine to weather. Whatever your area of interest — computers, amateur radios or robotics — you are likely to find products at Heath. In addition to browsing an extensive online catalog, Heath customers can request a free print catalog online. To access Heathkit, type GO HTH.

If you are a photography buff, whether your medium is black-and-white stills or state-of-the-art videos, you will want to visit Sunland Camera. This store's online catalog features name brand products from manufacturers such as Canon, Nikon, Minolta, Pentax, Ricoh, Kodak, Casina, Apollo and Vivatar. Among the items offered are a wide range of cameras, lenses, and gadgets and accessories. Audio/visual and video equipment, including Kodak's 8mm video system and Minolta's camcorder, all can be ordered online. To access Sunland Camera, type GO SUN.

Musically inclined subscribers will want to visit Music Alley Online. You will discover a selection of quality merchandise, usually at discounted prices. Music Alley Online carries keyboards/synthesizers, sequencers/programmers, rhythm devices, guitars, equalizers, mixers, recorders and more. Manufacturers include Yamaha, Korg, Ensoniqu, Casio, Sunn, Takamine, Boss and Fostex. To access Music Alley Online, type GO MAO.

Finally, if the stars are what you are after, see Cosmic Concepts. Cosmic Concepts carries a wide selection of optical devices, including telescopes, binoculars, magnifiers and microscopes. Whether you are looking for constellations in the sky, completed passes on the field, or cellular configurations, Cosmic Concepts probably has an optical device for you. To access Cosmic Concepts, type GO CC.

For a complete up-to-date roster of all Mall merchants, see The Electronic Mall's online merchant directory. To visit The Mall, type GO MALL at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

### APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

**APC** Apparel Concepts for Men
**ATH** Athlete's Outfitters
**BF** Birkenstock Footwear
**CA** Casual Tee's
**LNX** Lenox of Fairfield
**LH** L'Eggs/Hanes Outlet
**MJ** Milkins Jewelers
**BAG** Woodstock Leather Co.

### AUTO

**AMS** AMS/Oil Dealer
**ATB** American Tire Buyers
**BU** Buick Magazine
**CHV** Chevy Showroom

### BOOKS

**BB** Bantam Books
**DII** Christian Book Store
**MH** McGraw-Hill Book Company
**MER** Mercury House
**WB** Waldenbooks

### CAREER/SELF-HELP

**TDG** Teledata*Guide
**WS** Wayside Systems

### COMPUTING

**CPG** Compu-Game
**CE** Computer Express
**CL** Conroy-LaPointe
**DSC** Discount Computers
**HMK** Hallmark Color Mail
**HTH** The Heath Company
**IS** Investment Software
**DSK** 1-800-Floppys
**MM** Marymac Industries Inc.
**MO** Misco Computer Supplies
**SR** Sears, Roebuck & Co.
**SDA** Software Discounters of America
**WOC** World of Computers

### FINANCIAL

**BNB** Beneficial National Bank
**CI** Citibank
**CN** Colonial National Bank USA
**DWR** Dean Witter Reynolds
**EL** Equitable Life
**MU** Max Ule Discount Brokerage
**SLG** Sun Life Group

### GIFTS/GOURMET

**AK** Alaska Teleshopper
**COF** Coffee Emporium
**EX** Executive Engraver
**FTH** Fifth Avenue Shopper
**FFS** Florida Fruit Shippers
**HI** Hawaiian Isle
**HH** Hobbit Hole/Wyandotte Wines
**LM** Lincoln Manor Baskets
**SEA** Lobster Market
**NUT** Morrow's Nut House
**SIM** Simon David
**TG** Topgar Tobaccos
**WK** Walter Knoll Florist

### HOME/LEISURE

**CC** Cosmic Concepts
**GG** The Game Getters Inc.
**MAO** Music Alley Online
**RR** Rin Robyn Pool & Patio
**VCS** Vacuum Advance

### MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

**AA** American Airlines Catalog
**EGS** Electronic Gadget Store
**ELM** Electronic's Mart
**NCS** Nationwide Catalog Shopper
**SAV** Savings Scan
**SR** Sears, Roebuck & Co.
**SUN** Sunland Camera
**XDM** Xerox Direct Marketing

### ONLINE SERVICES

**EF** EF Hutton
**GLO** Globalink
**NN** NewsNet
**OA** Official Airline Guides
**VL** Videolog

### PERIODICALS

**CW** CW Communications
**DJ** Dow Jones & Co.
**ME** EBSCO Magazine Entree
**ECO** ECOPRESS
**US** USA TODAY

### PREMIUM MERCHANTS

**AXM** American Express
**BL** Bloomingdale's By Mail
**NM** Neiman-Marcus
**TIF** Tiffany & Co.

### RECORDS/MOVIES

**CF** CBS/Fox Video
**EMC** Express Music CDs
**MV** Magic Castle Video
**MUS** Music Video
**RC** RCA Direct Marketing
**RW** Record World

### SPORTS/HEALTH

**HF** Carolina Health & Fitness
**VM** VitaMenagerie Discount Vitamins

### TRAVEL

**AF** Air France
**AT** Ameropa Travel

# PIPELINE!

## Customize your own market analyses by going ON-LINE with Instant Demographics™

**The world's largest up-to-date database of demographic and buying power facts and forecasts is now available for hands-on use by you and your staff.**

The exact marketing data you need to make better business decisions is as close as the keyboard on your PC or terminal. With Instant Demographics ON-LINE service, it takes only minutes to identify emerging demographic trends, income distribution shifts, and consumer buying patterns in any market areas you choose.

Experts and novices alike will find this menu-driven program flexible and easy to use. You can search, screen, and rank-order more than 16 million income, demographic, and sales potential data items.

### Access through CompuServe or other time-sharing networks.

Or, if you're not ON-LINE today, let a CACI Market Specialist recommend one that would best serve your overall business information needs. In either case, each month you "pay as you go"—for one report or 1,000—depending on your data needs.

### You define your exact marketing area.

CACI's Instant Demographics ON-LINE lets you run custom reports on your target area—whatever and wherever it is. Choose ZIP codes, counties, census tracts, or circles of any radii. Markets of any size or shape anywhere in the U.S. Thousands of customized reports available instantly.

Select the demographic variables most important to you and your markets: age, race, occupation, household income, whatever. Or zero in on product related data—sales potential and consumer spending power.

Reliable data that will help you make informed decisions on site evaluation, market entry, product mix, promotion planning, customer profiling. Choose from any of more than 40 available reports, create your own reports, or ask for a custom extract of data that can be used in-house.

*"You, too, can pipe into CACI's ultimate source of market data."*

### Incomparable CACI Data.

The farther away we get from the last census, the more valuable are CACI's proprietary current year updates and 5-year forecasts of key variables. The members of CACI's unique Board of Demographers are nationally renowned experts. CACI's internal Demographic Center continuously refines data to its most exquisite and most useful form.

### Call us.

1-800-292-2224. Ask for ON-LINE and Custom Data Services. In Virginia, call 703-841-4760.

CACI/ **Instant Demographics**

Market Intelligence for Decision Makers™

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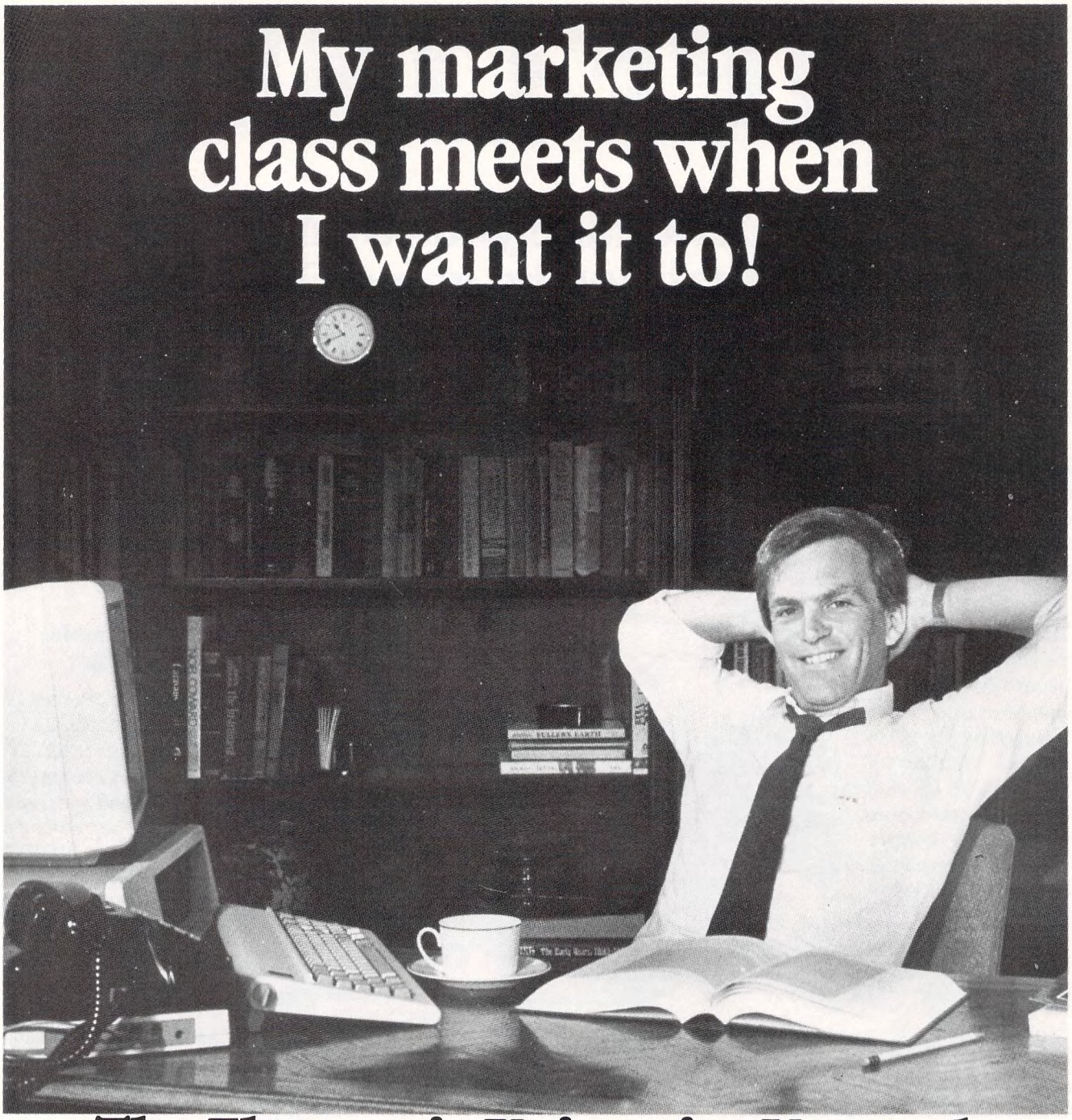
# My marketing class meets when I want it to!



## The Electronic University Network

For some time I've known I needed a course that would fine tune my strategic marketing skills, but with a demanding job, a family, it's not easy to do. Then I was told I missed a promotion because I needed an MBA. Still, going back to school at my age seemed nearly impossible. With my work schedule, the kids, there just isn't enough time to go to campus.

**Now I go to class when it's convenient for me.**

By connecting my home computer to the Electronic University Network, I can choose from 150 courses from colleges and universities all across the country, and even earn an undergraduate degree, or an MBA. **I make college fit my schedule.**

The network has put personalized instruction at my fingertips by bringing the university to me, in my home or office, at my own pace, anytime. And I'm able to work one-on-one with expert instructors from excellent schools. In effect, I have my own marketing mentor.

What's more, since the credit I have earned comes from fully-accredited colleges and universities, my company is covering 100% of the costs through its Tuition Reimbursement program.

Studying via the network is typically less expensive than equivalent on-campus courses—and no computer knowledge is needed to participate.

For details on course costs, participating schools, full degree programs, and an Electronic University Network 1986-1987 Catalog, call toll free:

**800-22LEARN**

California residents call:

**800-44LEARN**

If you're involved in employee education—ask about our corporate programs. We're currently working with corporations of all sizes across the nation to make affordable, convenient coursework available to valuable employees.

505 Beach Street
San Francisco, California 94133

GO EBB or circle 11 on the Reader Service Form.

## Business Briefs

### SUPERSITE Adds Five Reports

The SUPERSITE demographic system on the Executive Option now includes 1986 updates and 1991 forecasts, replacing the 1985 and 1990 numbers.

These updates and forecasts cover demographic items such as population, number of households, families, age, race and household income. In addition, expenditures on the Sales Potential Reports now reflect the 1986 figures as do the population and household numbers on the ACORN Target Marketing Reports. ZIP codes now are based on 1986 boundaries. Within the next month, The Neighborhood Report will be updated with the 1986 and 1991 data.

To access SUPERSITE and get the latest demographic information, type GO SUPERSITE at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

### Autodesk Forum Adds Subtopic

User support is the primary focus of the Autodesk Forum, and now Autodesk has added a subtopic for international users. Through this section, users can locate Autodesk's international subsidiaries and support centers, retrieve listings of foreign language versions of Autodesk products and find help in using hardware supported by Autodesk.

Forum users also may participate in message board discussions and online conferences with the largest group of Computer Aided Design users in the world. The Autodesk Forum contains user-generated AutoCAD usage tips and current information on all Autodesk products.

To access the Autodesk Forum, type GO ADESK at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

### ACORN Users Guide Available

The ACORN Users Guide is now available through the CompuServe Information Service ordering system. This new manual is a supplement to the information available in the "A Classification of Residential Neighborhoods" target marketing reports in SUPERSITE.

ACORN classifies all US households into one of 44 market segments based on the demographic, socioeconomic and housing characteristics of the neighborhoods.

To order the ACORN Users Guide, type GO ORDER at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

## For More Business Information

To obtain more information about CompuServe Business Information Service products mentioned in *Online Today*, contact the CompuServe branch sales office nearest you:

**Phoenix, Ariz.**
602/863-1404
**Irvine, Calif.**
714/752-7240
**Los Angeles, Calif.**
213/216-5867
**San Francisco, Calif.**
415/777-2737
**Santa Clara, Calif.**
408/727-1468
**Denver, Colo.**
303/629-5514
**Westport, Conn.**
203/222-1853
**Washington, D.C.**
703/391-0010
**Miami, Fla.**
305/264-6094
**Atlanta, Ga.**
404/231-1440
**Chicago, Ill.**
312/782-5409
**Indianapolis, Ind.**
317/635-9686
**Louisville, Ky.**
502/585-4016
**Boston, Mass.**
617/235-0772
**Detroit, Mich.**
313/362-1860
**Minneapolis, Minn.**
612/338-5678
**St. Louis, Mo.**
314/241-0700
**Parsippany, N.J.**
201/898-1944
**New York, Commercial**
212/486-2440
**New York, Financial**
212/668-0471
**Cincinnati, Ohio**
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**Dayton, Ohio**
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MAIL COUPON FOR INFORMATION PACK 129

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# Banking on Convenience

## *PSFS Offers Banking for Small Businesses*

PSFS, Philadelphia's largest bank and a division of the Meritor Financial Group, has given new meaning to the phrase "convenient banking" — it is called Business Banking Direct.

Available on CompuServe, Business Banking Direct offers customers the capability to conduct business banking 24 hours a day, seven days a week from the convenience of their offices. Using a personal computer and modem, customers essentially can manage their business financial affairs online rather than traveling to the bank.

"Business Banking Direct is computerized banking for the small-business person, offering greater control over bank accounts and cash flow while giving the customer speed, convenience and time savings," says A. William Sabatino, assistant vice president of PSFS Business Banking.

Using Business Banking Direct, customers can pay bills; transfer funds between PSFS accounts; make PSFS commercial loan payments; review balances in PSFS checking, loan and investment accounts; invest cash overnight; send wire transfers to another pre-authorized bank; request stop payments; send electronic messages to PSFS; and obtain PSFS product information.

Information presented online is detailed and complete. "For instance, when requesting information on account balances, the customer can get such details as which checks have cleared, a previous month's statement or the current month's statement to date," says Sabatino.

A unique feature of Business Banking Direct is the access it provides to CompuServe Information Service products. When users log on to BBD, they see a menu of the many banking options available as well as a listing of CompuServe areas that also can help them manage their businesses: executive news, weather, investment updates, travel guides, computer support information and electronic mail.

Business Banking Direct is one of the first such electronic business banking programs in the country and the only one in the Delaware Valley, which includes the greater Philadelphia area, northern Delaware and parts of New Jersey.

"We're reaching out to small businesses by offering this product, and I hope they recognize the sincerity of this institution when we tell them we have developed Business Banking Direct as a gesture that we want to do business with them," says Sabatino.

Small-business banking is a lucrative market. Sabatino says there are about 56,000 small businesses in the Delaware Valley, each with less than $10 million annually in total gross sales.

"The business person needs to spend as much time as possible doing what he does best — running the business. If you can save a business person time, you have given him or her the most precious commodity. And that's exactly what Business Banking Direct does; it frees up the business person's time," he says.

Being one of the first banks in the nation to offer such a service is not without its disadvantages, but Sabatino says those disadvantages are limited. "We do give the competition a chance to piggy-back on our success. They can learn from what we have learned, and they might price their product a few dollars less than we have," he says. "However, we have already priced Business Banking Direct low. We view it as a service feature and not a profit product."

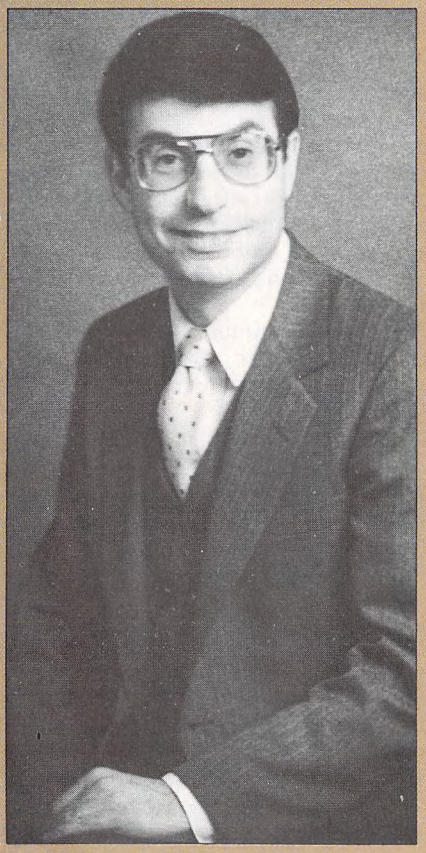
Sabatino believes that even though electronic business banking is offered only by a handful of banks nationwide, this product is not "futuristic" — a comment often made about electronic home banking. "Electronic business banking will stand on its own. Personal computers are here to stay in the small-business world. Many small businesses already have computers, and predictions are that with each passing year more and more will be bringing them into their shops," he says.

To access Business Banking Direct, type GO BBD at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service. This service is available to Executive Option subscribers.

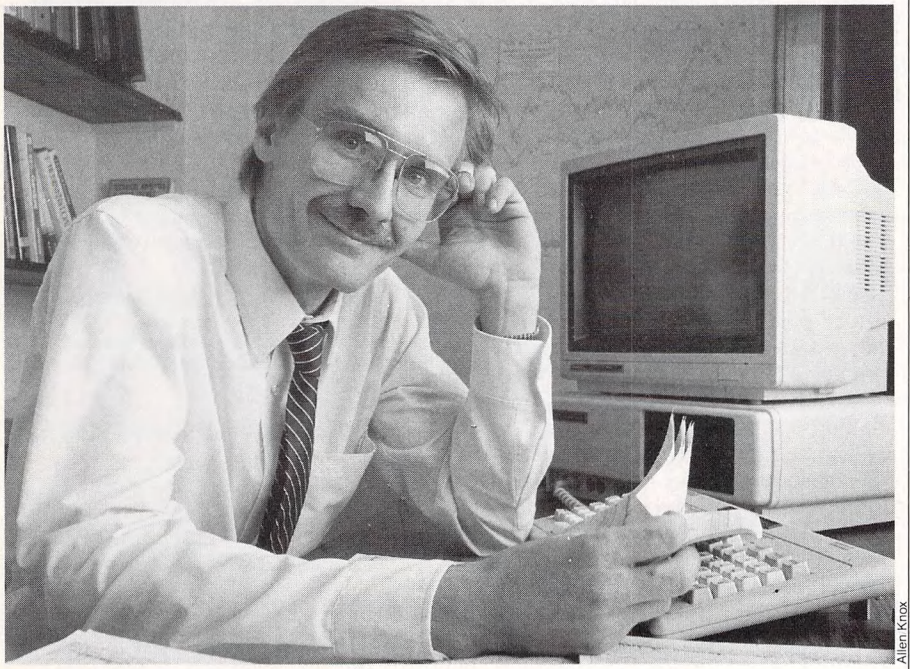
*— Cathryn Conroy*

***"If you can save a business person time, you have given them the most precious commodity. And that's exactly what Business Banking Direct does."***

***— William Sabatino***



# Investors Trade Tips in Bull-Bear Sessions


Allen Knox

**Sharing stock market strategies:** *Knutowski and members pick up tips*

The Investors Forum now is available to help all CompuServe subscribers with questions on stocks and bonds, mutual funds, commodities, options and investment software. Previously restricted to those with the Executive Option, the Investors Forum experienced a dramatic increase in usage when it was opened to all subscribers about a year ago. In the first quarter of 1986, more than 1,000 investors and potential investors accessed this forum.

Members range from registered investment advisors to armchair investors who want to learn more about managing their money.

Members from as far away as Africa's Ivory Coast, France and England take advantage of the forum's services, according to Harry Knutowski, assistant forum administrator. Membership involves no additional charges or requirements, but members are asked to use both their first and last names in deference to the seriousness of this forum's topic.

All members are invited to the regular Thursday evening conferences from 9 to 10:30 p.m. and to the impromptu Bull-Bear sessions, usually beginning nightly at 11:30 p.m. EST. At these conferences, members learn about the day's market action, discuss possible strategies and share information.

Because floor traders from various stock exchanges often participate in these sessions, members can sometimes pick up tips and techniques that are not usually available to non-professionals.

Other forum services include a message board in which members can ask forum administrators questions filed under 11 subtopics, ranging from commodities to retirement plans. Some typical questions: "At what point would tax-exempt investments benefit someone in my income tax bracket?" "I recently found some old stock certificates in my attic and wonder what they're worth." "Does anyone know if Company ABC is still trading?" "How do I get started with penny stocks?" "Can someone help me understand TED spread?" "What criteria would you use to find undervalued stocks?"

Although anyone with current information can answer questions left on the message board, the forum administrators check the accuracy of the replies or answer the questions themselves. Questions asked frequently or of common interest are saved, along with their answers, in the data library.

The forum's data library has recently been expanded to include the public-domain program files of the American Association of Individual Investors. These programs can be run on five different computer systems — IBM PC and compatibles, Apple II, Commodore 64, Kaypro and CP/M, and Macintosh — and help investors evaluate stocks, bonds and options.

The data library offers help files that enable members to use other CompuServe financial databases and services more efficiently. The FUNDQU.OTE help file, for example, explains how to find a mutual fund ticker symbol to obtain price quotes through the CompuServe Information Service. Another help file provides background information for members who plan to access MicroQuote (MQUOTE), which is available as a separate service through CompuServe and provides stock prices, mutual fund and option quotes, historical prices and other information.

Members may access the data library to read or download reprints of current articles on investment topics or to review bibliographies in three areas: technical analysis, commodity trading and coin collecting.

The forum's bulletin board offers short bulletins to update members on scheduled conferences and on new additions to the data library.

The four forum administrators represent a wide range of interests and expertise. Harry Knutowski, a Milwaukee businessman, acts as chief data librarian and is an avid investor. Fred Pauzar is a licensed investment broker in Naples, Fla. Larry Wulker is a broker with Paine Webber in Cincinnati. The newest administrator, Mike Pietruk, is a registered investment advisor and assistant vice president of a savings and loan in Chicago.

The team of administrators and forum members, whether professional or amateur investors, offer suggestions and information covering a range of investment interests. The Investors Forum is a place to meet others interested in and knowledgeable about investing.

Neither the forum nor the CompuServe Information Service is responsible for any investment action taken as a result of the personal opinions offered through the forum. No guarantees of financial success are made by any participants and each member accepts full responsibility for any action taken.

So, if you want to talk stocks and bonds, type GO INVFORUM at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

— *Linda Barr*

## Tandy Portable Disk Drive and Software

**Portable Disk Drive**
Tandy Corp./Radio Shack
1700 One Tandy Center
Fort Worth, TX 76102
817/390-3549

**TS-DOS**
Traveling Software Inc.
11050 Fifth Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125
206/367-8090

**Computers:** Portable Disk Drive works on TRS-80 Model 100 or Model 200; TS-DOS works with the TRS-80 Model 100 and Model 200 or (with Brother disk drive) on the NEC PC-8201.
**Operating Systems:** Tandy File Management System (standard for Portable Disk Drive) or TS-DOS.
**Hardware Features:** 3.5-inch external disk drive for TRS-80 Model 100 or Model 200, battery or AC (optional) powered, 100K formatted storage, RS-232C cable and system software (one diskette) included.
**Media:** Tandy File Management System and TS-DOS each provided on a single-sided diskette; TS-DOS has accompanying cassette.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Requirements:** TS-DOS requires Tandy Portable Disk Drive or Brother disk drive.
**System used for test:** 24K TRS-80 Model 100 with Tandy Portable Disk Drive and Portable Computer Support Group Inc.'s Super ROM.
**Prices:** $199 for Portable Disk Drive; $69.95 for TS-DOS ($49.95 if purchased with Traveling Software's Ultimate ROM II).

*Reviewed by Joe Farace*

I was on the road, burning the midnight oil and busily banging on the keys of my Model 100 while trying to write an unusually long article when I noticed the computer's response speed slowing down. That's typically a sign that I'm approaching the memory limit, so I started making room by removing non-essential files. That gave me another 8K, which I promptly filled. Although I managed to get half of the article written, I really needed more memory to finish the job . . . or maybe a disk drive.

Tandy's Portable Disk Drive is perhaps the most significant new product yet developed for the Model 100 and 200 laptop computers. At first I was disappointed that each 3.5-inch disk holds only 100K, especially when compared with 400K Macintosh single-sided disks or 720K MS-DOS double-sided disks. Such skimpy storage would be inadequate for a desktop computer, yet it proved acceptable for a laptop computer having only 24K of RAM.

The disk drive comes with a cable and a utility diskette. Power can be provided by an optional AC adapter or four AA batteries. Connecting it to the Model 100 is simple; the cable plugs into the RS-232C port on the disk drive and into a similar port on the back of the computer. Like a "real" disk drive, the Tandy drive sports an LED that shows when it is active. Before getting started, be sure to read page 9 of the manual, which shows how to set the drive's four DIP switches. This section can be a little confusing, but it says that the switches should be set "on" initially.

The standard DOS is Tandy's File Management software, contained on the utility diskette. To make the Model 100 recognize the disk drive, you must type a three-line program (provided in the manual) called IPL.CO into the computer's built-in BASIC. Running that program causes the file manager, called FLOPPY.CO, to be loaded from disk. This last process requires at least 8K of spare memory. After FLOPPY.CO is loaded, reset the DIP switches to "off" or the computer won't know the disk drive is connected.

The file manager loads, saves, kills, backs up and does everything the average computer user expects of a disk operating system, but you can upgrade the operating system by adding Traveling Software's TS-DOS.

The TS-DOS disk and manual are packaged with a cassette that lets you load the operating system into memory. (No, the "Traveling Professor" isn't on this one.) If you have Traveling Software's Ultimate ROM II, you'll be able to automatically access the Tandy Portable Disk drive by pressing a single key. I don't have it, but loading DOS still was easy. I started by using Tandy's FLOPPY.CO program to load TS-DOS.CO. After a typing "Clear 256,57400" and placing the TS-DOS disk in the drive, TS-DOS quietly loaded.

TS-DOS makes the Tandy Portable Disk Drive even easier to use. Instead of typing DOS commands, you simply move the cursor over a filename or command and press a function key, so the command structure is identical to that of a Model 100 without a disk drive, and there is nothing new to learn. Copying the computer's entire memory can be done at one time with a backup feature built into TS-DOS. The operating system also is designed to leave a small portion resident in memory for use with Tandy's TEXT or BASIC, which lets you save and load files while within TEXT.

I've always felt that the Model 100 was the ultimate "basic" computer. It is simple to use and provides more value than anyone has a right to expect for its modest cost. Now, the Tandy Portable Disk Drive joins with Traveling Software's TS-DOS to form a perfect partnership for the computerist on the go.

*Joe Farace is a writer and photographer from Denver. He is a contributing editor of* PhotoMethods *magazine and his reviews of Macintosh software will appear in an upcoming book from Arrays Inc.*

GO EBB or circle 14 on the Reader Service Form.

## Electronic Edition Hardware Reviews

The following hardware reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-220 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

**Leading Edge Model D Computer.**
**Manufacturer:** *Leading Edge Hardware Products Inc.*
**Computer:** *Leading Edge Model D (MS-DOS).*

**Romdisk PC Disk Emulator.**
**Manufacturer:** *Curtis Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.*

## Want to Read More Hardware Reviews?

GO OLT from any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service and choose "Product Reviews" from the main menu.

ONLINE TODAY
ELECTRONIC EDITION

# ExpressData

***External Modem for High-Performance Communications***

Telenetics Corp.
895 E. Yorba Linda Blvd.
Placentia, CA 92670
714/524-5770

**Computers:** Any computer or terminal equipped with an RS-232C serial port.
**Operating System:** Not applicable.
**Features:** Model 12s provides 110/300/1200 bps (bit per second) asynchronous or synchronous operation conforming to Bell 103/212 standards; Model 24s provides 110/300/1200/2400 bps asynchronous or synchronous operation conforming to Bell 103/212 and CCITT V.22 bis standards; half- or full-duplex; auto-dial and auto-answer capabilities; voice/data capability; rotary or tone dialing; electronic call-progress detection; automatic "adaptive equalization" for varying line conditions; fully compatible with "AT" ("attention") command set of Hayes Smartmodems; switch-selectable US or European operation with switch-selectable guard tones; audio speaker with volume control; three-year warranty.
**Options:** Rack-mounted configuration available; MNP error control available as plug-in module.
**Model Tested:** ExpressData Model 24s (110/300/1200/2400 bps) without MNP error control used with Compaq Deskpro on COM1 (IBM Asynchronous Communications Adapter) and COM2 (STB RIO Plus II multifunction card) ports; running PC-DOS 2.10 and various Smartmodem-compatible communications programs.
**Prices:** $445 for Model 12s; $645 for Model 24s; no software included with external modems, but Telenetics can provide VM Personal Computing's Relay software at discount for PC-DOS or MS-DOS computers.

*Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau*

ExpressData is a full-size, ruggedly constructed, external modem housed in an all-metal case and capable of either asynchronous or synchronous communications in the United States or Europe at rates up to 2400 bps.

Like many other modems, ExpressData uses the "AT" command set popularized by Hayes Smartmodems, but it recognizes both uppercase and lowercase to minimize keying errors when issuing commands. This modem is usable with any computer having an RS-232C serial port, so communications software is not included. The user is free to select his or her favorite software from among the many available using "AT" commands or demanding Hayes-compatible modems.

ExpressData is a full-function modem with all features expected of a high-performance device. It has an adjustable-volume speaker for call monitoring, electronic call monitoring with 13 single-character or verbose response codes, 13 "AT" commands and the usual assortment of 18 programmable "S" or "Status" registers.

The modem does not have the usual array of eight DIP switches frequently defined in communications software manuals for Hayes-compatible modems, which could throw inexperienced users a curve. The functions are there, but this modem has eight front-panel pushbutton switches (with 11 nearby indicators), 16 internal DIP switches and several internal jumpers. Certain functions like enabling automatic answering or triggering a voice interrupt are accomplished from the front panel. Others, like controlling the Carrier Detect (CD) and Data Terminal Ready (DTR) signals require opening the modem and using internal switches that don't relate one-to-one with some software instructions.

The back panel houses a female DB25 connector for the computer interface cable, two modular jacks (line and phone set), a speaker volume adjustment and a power-supply jack. There's no on/off switch; the unit is powered whenever it is plugged in. I prefer a modem I can switch off and find the lack of a power switch somewhat disconcerting.

This isn't a modem that should be operated without reading its 70-page manual. While most users probably could just connect and run it, there are software packages and applications that require fiddling with switches and jumpers, setting registers, etc., so it is important to know where those controls are, how they work and how to change the modem configuration when necessary.

Of three units tested over several months, the first demonstrated disturbingly high error rates. It wasn't as bad as some modems I've used, but the errors were frequent and severe enough to be disruptive. In error-checked file transfers, it averaged four to five errors (corrected by software) per 100K of data moved, and in ASCII communications, errors garbled text lines or interfered with commands being issued to remote systems about once every four to five minutes. A second unit functioned better, showing only one or two errors per 100K of protocol file transfers and one or two spurious characters every 15 minutes or so during ASCII communications.

The third and latest model, using the newer Rockwell 'J Code" chip set performed almost flawlessly. My software registered no errors at all in 500K of error-checked file transfers using XMODEM and CompuServe's "B Protocol" at 1200 and 2400 bps speeds. During two straight hours of 2400 bps ASCII communication with CompuServe and MCI Mail, I saw only one spurious character in the data stream.

For a long time, one local bulletin board running a Hayes Smartmodem 2400 has been my nemesis. If any modem gives me problems, they almost always show up while communicating with that BBS, and many modems that work well with other services perform miserably with this one. Not so with the third ExpressData unit, which suffered no errors at all during ASCII communications or while uploading and downloading over 250K of files to and from this BBS.

Bluntly, the performance of the unit with the new chip set easily equalled the best modems I've used and certainly surpassed most I've tried.

I was unable to find any problems with the "AT" command set. As far as I could determine, the ExpressData modem is 100 percent Hayes-compatible, and it worked perfectly with all communications software I tried, doing so without changing already existing Hayes-style setups and logon scripts.

So I can fault only the newest ExpressData on the trivial points of having some needed switches inconveniently located inside and not having a power switch. If those things don't matter, it is a fine unit and is highly recommended.

*Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and* Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

GO EBB or circle 15 on the Reader Service Form.

# WindoWord:

***A Windowing Word Processor***

Arrays Inc.
6711 Valjean Ave.
Van Nuys, CA 91406
818/994-1899

**Computers:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.
**Operating Systems:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher; version 3.0 or higher for PC-AT.
**Media:** Requires two double-sided diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
**Copy Protection:** Program may be run from working copies, but requires original diskette in drive when loading program.
**Required Peripherals:** Printer.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 256K RAM.
**Optional Items:** None.
**System used for test:** 640K IBM PC-XT with IBM black-and-white monitor, IBM monochrome display and printer adapter, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.
**List Price:** $149.95

*Reviewed by William J. Lynott*

Because of the creative work done with them, word processors probably are the most personal of all software applications. What delights one user may be nothing more than a bother to another.

The dazzling variety of word processors available today reflects the efforts of authors to come up with products that appeal to the widest ranges of users. Products such as Microsoft Word and WordStar are packed with sleek and powerful features, at prices to match. At the other end of the scale are less sophisticated, less expensive and more easily learned programs. WindoWord belongs among the latter, but I was surprised to discover how many advanced features have been incorporated into this inexpensive package.

Talk about easy to learn! All WindoWord functions can be accessed through seven pull-down menus that offer mostly intuitive options. The menu system combined with WindoWord's context-sensitive help screens will have you creating documents within an hour or so.

WindoWord has most standard features expected of word processors these days. Block move and copy, headers and footers, and automatic word wrap all are here. But WindoWord also boasts some features not found in many competitors in its price range. Mail merging and the ability to format in columns are good examples.

Cursor movement is controlled with the arrow keys in combination with the Home key. Jumping from the top to bottom or from one part of a page to another is done almost as quickly as you can press the keys.

A "glossary" feature lets you store frequently used words, phrases or complete texts for instant insertion into a document. When creating and storing a glossary term, you assign a brief name, perhaps just a single letter. To insert that item into text, just type the identifying name and tap [CONTROL-F1].

WindoWord lets you open as many as four windows to view several documents simultaneously. The windows are easy to open, and switching between them requires just one keystroke. However, window sizes are fixed, meaning they're quite small when you open four, but they do allow you to view enough text to make them worthwhile.

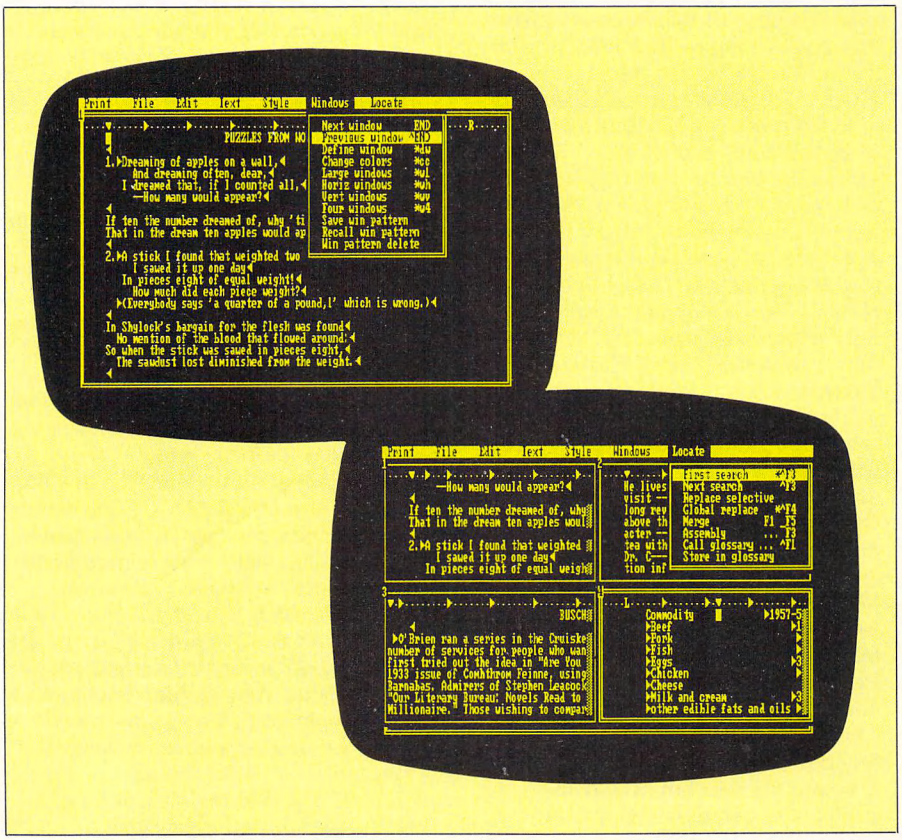
Formatting a document is a pleasure. Setting margins, page length, line spacing and other formatting options is done easily through the "document" menu. Once you have established formats for specific document types, you may save them in a configuration file for later use.

All this is not to say that WindoWord doesn't have shortcomings.

Paragraph reformatting is not automatic. When you disturb an existing paragraph by inserting additional text, it breaks into two or more sections that must be reformatted by pressing a special function key. This isn't a major fault, but it is annoying to fast typists.

The easy-to-learn quality of WindoWord is offset somewhat by the slowness of working through the menu system for some functions. Fortunately, the menu system can be bypassed with special function keys for chores typically done most often.

The installation procedure has a limitation that frustrated me but may not bother others. When installing it, the program "reads" the hardware configuration automatically and displays it on the screen so changes may be made. However, if it finds a hard disk, it will not permit installation on floppy diskettes, and it automatically installs on the hard disk whether wanted there or not. Because my hard disk space is limited, I often don't bother to install review software on it until I determine that it


Print File Edit Text Style Windows Locate
PUZZLES FROM MO
1. Dreaming of apples on a wall,
And dreaming often, dear,
I dreamed that, if I counted all,
—How many would appear?
If ten the number dreamed of, why ti
That in the dream ten apples would ap
2. A stick I found that weighted two
I sawed it up one day
In pieces eight of equal weight!
How much did each piece weigh?
(Everybody says 'a quarter of a pound,' which is wrong.)
In Shylock's bargain for the flesh was found
No mention of the blood that flowed around;
So when the stick was sawed in pieces eight,
The sawdust lost diminished from the weight.
Next window END
Previous window ^END
Define window ^du
Change colors ^cc
Large windows ^ul
Horiz windows ^uh
Vert windows ^uv
Four windows ^u4
Save win pattern
Recall win pattern
Win pattern delete
Print File Edit Text Style Windows Locate
First search ^F3
Next search ^F3
Replace selective
Global replace ^^F4
Merge F1 F5
Assembly ... F3
Call glossary ... ^F1
Store in glossary
—How many would appear?
If ten the number dreamed of, why
That in the dream ten apples would
2. A stick I found that weighted
I sawed it up one day
In pieces eight of equal weigh
BUSCH
O'Brien ran a series in the Cruiske
number of services for people who wan
first tried out the idea in "Are You
1933 issue of Cowthroat Feinne, using
Barnabas, Admirers of Stephen Leacock
"Our Literary Bureau: Novels Read to
Millionaire." Those wishing to compare
Commodity
1957-5
Beef
Pork
Fish
Eggs
Chicken
Cheese
Milk and cream
Other edible fats and oils

warrants the space. But WindoWord didn't afford that luxury.

A more serious concern to some users will be WindoWord's inability to convert document files to straight ASCII format for telecommunications or exporting to other programs. Nor are there spell-checking or word-counting functions in WindoWord, although those features are turning up in most of the better packages today.

Of course, every word processor is a unique combination of features and limitations. What's important when selecting one is matching it to particular needs. If you're looking for an inexpensive program that's easy to learn and provides most major features, WindoWord is one you should check out.

*William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.*

GO EBB or circle 16 on the Reader Service Form.

## Windows:

### *The Microsoft Mountain Produces a Mouse*

Microsoft Corp.
16011 N.E. 36th Way
Box 97017
Redmond, WA 98073-9717
206/828-7400 or 800/426-9400

**Computers:** Any IBM PC running the DOS operating system.
**Operating System:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or later.
**Media:** Requires two 360K disks drives or one floppy and one hard disk.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Graphics or color monitor.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 256K RAM.
**Optional Items:** Mouse and minimum of 512K RAM to run multiple applications.
**System used for test:** 640K IBM PC with one 360K double-sided diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk, Hercules Graphics Card, monochrome monitor, Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer and Microsoft Bus Mouse.
**List Price:** $99

*Reviewed by Harry Green*

Microsoft's long-awaited Windows program, which promised to free us from some restraints imposed by DOS and single-tasking computers, is finally here. Windows garners its name from its ability to display several tasks on the screen simultaneously in separate "panes." The Windows package includes a collection of software that may alone be worth the price of admission for some people. Notepad, calendar, cardfile, calculator, clock, terminal and graphics programs plus a fairly good word processor named Windows Write all are included.

Programs are started by highlighting them with a mouse or cursor and choosing the function from a pull-down menu. If you've developed some dexterity with a mouse, you can start any program without using the keyboard. This is presumably an advantage for people who don't know how to type, but anyone who lacks keyboard skills will have problems using the application after it is running. While an application is running, it occupies all or part of the screen; when it is retired, it waits at the bottom of the screen as an icon where it can be restarted by selecting the icon and dragging it to the screen.

The notepad, calculator, cardfile, calendar and clock programs won't be universally appreciated. I've never become accustomed to using my computer for a notepad or cardfile. The calendar function is useful, but unless the computer is always on, it can't replace a desk calendar. With calculators so cheap that you can hardly afford to replace batteries when they run down, I've never discovered the benefits of using one on the computer screen.

Windows Paint is the most intriguing program in the package. Like other graphics programs, a variety of shapes can be selected with the mouse and molded on the screen. Shapes can be augmented with freehand sketches, shaded with a versatile selection of patterns, dragged, mashed, squeezed and otherwise manipulated into the desired product. A distinguishing feature is the capability of merging images produced by Paint with documents produced by Write.

Windows Write is compatible with Microsoft Word, and the two can share files. Write falls short of being a professional word processor, but for the price, it is reasonably efficient and offers the advantage of working directly from Windows, which Word does not.

The terminal program works, but is recommended only if nothing better is available. It lacks automatic logon and function-key macros that, in other programs, make for easy navigation through online services without remembering code names or using menus. The program doesn't wipe the screen clean when it scrolls, so if you use it on CompuServe, you'll have to filter the desired text from a background of unwanted gibberish.

Windows manipulates its own utilities effectively, but it is not so easy to use with unsupported programs. I bought Windows to use Word and Lotus 1-2-3 simultaneously, but even 640K of memory is too little to handle both programs. Inactive programs can be stored on disk for more rapid start up, but I've found this more trouble than it is worth. The main problem is Windows' lack of batch file support. I start all my software through batch files that automatically start other resident programs, delete backup files and handle similar functions. Windows dislikes batch files and is designed to start unsupported programs through a start-up routine called a PIF file, which must be selected from the Windows menu.

I find that simple DOS functions that work well by themselves are too complex to endure through Windows just for the benefit of keeping multiple programs active. And although I'm a strong mouse advocate for some functions, I find it a handicap for choosing programs from an extensive directory.

Although Windows has been greeted enthusiastically in most magazines, I haven't discovered what the hoopla is about. Certainly it is worthwhile for someone who needs the utilities and wants a decent software collection at a reasonable price. It is also interesting to marvel at the complexity of the programming effort that must have gone into Windows. Yet, I find the time and effort of starting it worthwhile only when using programs that Windows supports directly.

Curiously, Microsoft's own Word (version 3.0) doesn't support Windows. Until it does, I'll keep using Word through DOS. Perhaps future enhancements to Windows will expand its usefulness, but for now, I believe it contributes too little to operations to be worth the 1.2MB of hard disk space it consumes.

*Harry Green is president of Pacific Netcom Inc., a Portland, Ore., firm that consults with businesses on using office automation and telecommunications to improve productivity. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.*

GO EBB or circle 17 on the Reader Service Form.

# Get!

***Background Program for Electronic Mail Services***

Cygnet Technologies Inc.
1296 Lawrence Station Rd.
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
408/734-9946 or 800/621-4292

**Computers:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.
**Operating Systems:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
**Media:** Requires one double-sided diskette drive.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Color or monochrome monitor; Hayes-compatible modem connected to COM1 or COM2.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 256K RAM; memory-resident portion consumes 54K (minimum buffer sizes) to 84K (maximum buffer sizes).
**Optional Items:** Additional diskette drives or hard disk; printer connected to LPT1, LPT2 or LPT3.
**System used for test:** 640K Compaq Deskpro Model 2 with two diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), Amdek Color 722 RGB monitor, STB Systems EGA Plus video adapter and Epson FX-85 printer; interchanging between USRobotics Courier 2400, Telenetics PonyExpress and Telenetics ExpressData modems; running IBM PC-DOS 2.10.
**List Prices:** $89.95; logon update subscription is available at an annual charge of $25 for up to three services plus $10 for each additional service.

*Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau*

Frequent users of electronic mail often chafe at having to exit some application, start a communications program, check their mailboxes and then return to the other application many times each day. What's needed is a background program to dial services and check mailboxes on a fixed timetable without interrupting other work, which is exactly what Get! does best.

A non-resident setup program lets users configure Get! for the hardware, choose sizes for a text editing buffer (8K, 12K, 24K or 32K) and data saving buffer (1K, 2K or 3K), select from preprogrammed logon scripts for 11 services (with direct-connect, Tymnet and Telenet alternatives), set communications parameters and passwords, and establish schedules for background mail checks. The user can choose specific times of day, uniform intervals throughout any desired time period and whether to check mailboxes immediately when Get! is loaded. Customized scripts for unsupported services can be developed from menu-selected tasks that include pausing, waiting for prompts, sending strings and jumping to new instructions on receipt of a specific string.

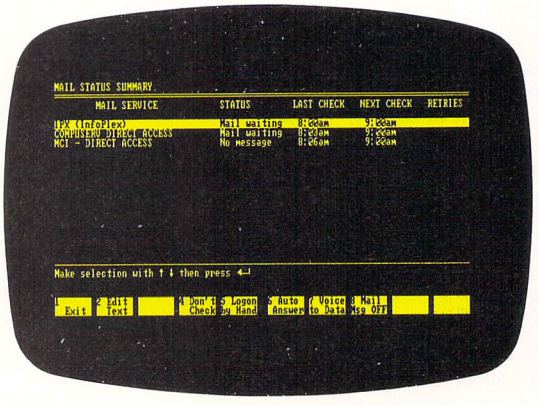
I use Get! and its preprogrammed logons to check MCI Mail once a day and CompuServe's EasyPlex three times a day. I've also developed my own script to check a CompuServe-operated InfoPlex service every hour. I use designated times or uniform intervals, avoiding the option of immediately checking mail when Get! is loaded because that activates each time I reboot and reload the program.

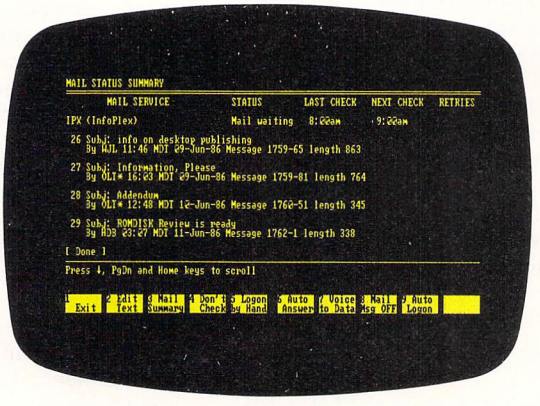
The resident portion of Get! requires 54K to 84K of memory, depending on buffer sizes selected. Once loaded, it works in the background of word processors, spreadsheets, database managers and other applications, routinely dialing installed services at designated times, checking for waiting mail, and logging off. It doesn't disturb other applications but can, at the user's option, display messages advising that mail checks are underway or that mail is awaiting attention.

It is important to note that Get! background operations do not read the text of waiting messages. The program reads and records only message identifiers. When notified that mail is waiting, pressing [Alt-G] pops Get! onto the screen where it shows a summary of the mail checks. By picking one, it is then possible to read the message identifiers and decide whether to respond immediately or later. To respond, just keep Get! in the foreground and manually or automatically log back onto the service to read the whole message and act appropriately. When done, exit Get! and you will return directly to the point of interruption in the other application.

Get! is equipped with a capable text editor, XON/XOFF and line-by-line flow control, a capture-to-disk function, an ASCII sending function and XMODEM error-checking protocol. As of version 1.02 dated May 12, 1986, the XMODEM protocol dynamically adjusts to XMODEM "flavors" of remote systems and checked out extremely well on CompuServe and various bulletin boards. These features running in foreground mode make Get! an effective general-purpose communications package.

Get! isn't difficult to use. Early versions had "bugs," but most have been


MAIL STATUS SUMMARY.
MAIL SERVICE STATUS LAST CHECK NEXT CHECK RETRIES
IPX (InfoPlex) Mail waiting 8:00am 9:00am
CompuServe Direct Access Mail waiting 8:00am 9:00am
MCI - DIRECT ACCESS No message 8:00am 9:00am
Make selection with ↑ ↓ then press ↵
1 Exit
2 Edit Text
4 Don't Check
5 Logon By Hand
6 Auto Answer
7 Voice to Data
8 Mail Msg OFF


MAIL STATUS SUMMARY
MAIL SERVICE STATUS LAST CHECK NEXT CHECK RETRIES
IPX (InfoPlex) Mail waiting 8:00am 9:00am
26 Subj: info on desktop publishing
By KJL 11:46 MDT 29-Jun-86 Message 1759-65 length 863
27 Subj: Information, Please
By OLI* 16:23 MDT 09-Jun-86 Message 1759-81 length 764
28 Subj: Addendum
By OLI* 12:48 MDT 10-Jun-86 Message 1760-51 length 345
29 Subj: ROMDISK Review is ready
By MJB 23:27 MDT 11-Jun-86 Message 1762-1 length 338
[ Done ]
Press ↓, PgDn and Home keys to scroll
1 Exit
2 Edit Text
3 Mail Summary
4 Don't Check
5 Logon By Hand
6 Auto Answer
7 Voice to Data
8 Mail Msg OFF
9 Auto Logon

fixed in version 1.02. A few disturbing things remain, however. Users cannot alter preprogrammed logon scripts beyond changing passwords, telephone numbers and communications parameters. Instead, the user is expected to subscribe to an update service or to design new scripts from scratch. This proved annoying because the standard MCI Mail script seems flawed. With a Courier 2400 modem (but not with PonyExpress or ExpressData modems), exiting MCI Mail left the "receive data" line active and disabled the modem until it was cycled on and off. That isn't unusual with the Courier when a program exits before the modem fully disconnects and settles into its idle state, but Get! won't let me get to the script to alter logoff timing and actions.

Get! doesn't provide a true if-then-else test of conditions in customized scripts. There are places where the simple jump on receipt of a string isn't enough, and true logical testing could simplify matters when old messages aren't cleared from the mailbox or where numeric values in prompts are the only differences between having or not having waiting messages.

The resident portion of Get! cannot clear old messages from the buffer and only lets users turn the "mail waiting" message off. Thus, old messages remain visible throughout the day until scrolled off by other incoming material, which can be distracting at times.

Despite these few complaints, Get! is an admirable program for people relying heavily on electronic mail. Although I prefer programs with other features and protocols for straightforward foreground communication, Get! has its place for convenient, routine mail checking.

*Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and* Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

GO EBB or circle 18 on the Reader Service Form.

## Vorpal Utility Kit

***Fit for Commodore Techies***

Epyx Inc.
1043 Kiel Ct.
Sunnyvale, CA 94089
408/745-0700

**Computers:** Commodore 64 or 128.
**Operating System:** Commodore DOS.
**Media:** Requires one 1541 or 1571 diskette drive.
**Copy Protection:** Heavily copy protected; disk copy utility included in package will not copy itself and no backup is provided.
**Required Peripherals:** One disk drive.
**Optional Items:** Color monitor; suitably interfaced third-party printer or Commodore printer.
**System used for test:** Commodore 128 with 1571 drive, 1541 drive, Commodore Amiga 1080 Monitor, Cardco G-Whiz interface and Epson RX-80 printer.
**Retail Prices:** $29.95 to 39.95

*Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson*

Epyx seems to have taken its cartridge-based Fast Load concept and applied it to a disk-based system. Besides quick-loading features that accelerate the notoriously slow Commodore disk loads and saves, the Vorpal Utility Kit includes a head alignment and speed checking program. A DOS utility section speeds other disk access tasks, including formatting, renaming, validating and packing a disk plus deleting, undeleting, protecting, unprotecting, renaming and copying files.

The head alignment and speed checks test a 1541 drive to see whether it is in alignment and operating at the right speed. If the drive is out of alignment, this program supposedly can put it back. Since I didn't have a misaligned 1541 drive, I couldn't test this claim, but it didn't work at all with my 1571 drive.

Incidentally, like so many other programs that claim to work on the 128, this one works only in the 128's Commodore 64 mode.

A file information utility describes the important attributes of a file, including the file type, whether a file is protected, the starting and ending addresses, the length and whether it contains any errors. This option brings up a list of all files on the disk, and each is assigned a menu letter that makes it easy to specify the file of interest.

There are some good design features in this package. It is menu-driven, and when working with file manipulations in the DOS utilities, it eliminates the need to type most filenames. You also can work with multiple files. For instance, copying several files from one disk to another requires merely typing the menu letter of each file followed by a return. When all filenames are chosen, function seven indicates you've finished choosing, and the program then executes the operation. Very tidy!

Some words about speed. The product is indeed fast. Formatting a disk takes much less time and doesn't bang the drive head around as much as conventional formatting. Disk copying using two drives takes slightly less than a minute — a marked improvement over the 20 minutes necessary for a Commodore DOS copy. It will not copy itself, though; a disk so created will not run even though all necessary files seem to be present.

The pack disk command is useful to increase Vorpal files' speed. With this option, all normal programs are moved to the outside tracks, leaving the internal, fastest accessed tracks free for Vorpal programs.

The real kicker is the VLOADER option that lets you put the fast loader on your other disks and set them to autoload other programs. VLOADER will quick load non-Vorpal format files, but they will not be as quick as a file converted to Vorpal format.

Files in Vorpal format are not in standard Commodore DOS format, so normal copying programs cannot be used to copy them. Some sophisticated bit copiers might be able to handle them, but Epyx recommends using the copy program they provide.

The one immediate use for this package that comes to mind is creating disks for commercial sale. With VLOADER on it, the disk's program would load faster and have a minimal built-in copy protection scheme. However, a special note in the package expressly forbids this use.

Under those conditions, I'd get the Epyx Fast Load cartridge or Access Software's Mach 128 and save myself the hassle of loading VFILER every time I set out to work. Trying to remember which disks had Vorpal files and which had only normal files would soon drive me crazy. The disk drive check is nice, but other programs do the same thing.

Other users may find the slight edge in loading time provided by Vorpal to be an asset, but I think this applies to a small segment of the computing population. So unless you have a special use for it, you might as well pass this one by.

*Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366.2645.*

GO EBB or circle 19 on the Reader Service Form.

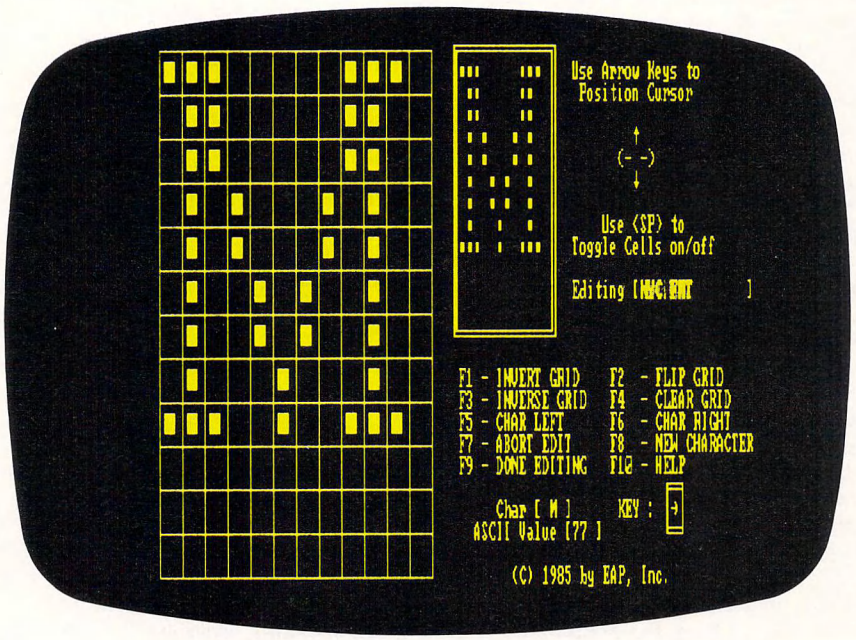
# Daisyfont

***Designs Custom Characters for Daisywheel Printers***

Einstein's Automation Profiles Inc.
184 2nd Ave., #1B
New York, NY 10003
212/750-7500

**Computers:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and true compatibles.
**Operating Systems:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
**Media:** Requires one diskette drive or a hard disk.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Diablo 630, Qume, NEC or compatible daisywheel or spinwriter printer.
**Other Requirements:** Minimum 192K RAM.
**Optional Items:** None.
**System used for test:** 640K IBM PC with one 360K double-sided diskette drive, one 20MB hard disk and Juki 6100 printer; running PC-DOS 2.1.
**List Price:** $64.95

*Reviewed by James Moran*


Use Arrow Keys to Position Cursor
Use (SP) to Toggle Cells on/off
F1 - INVERT GRID
F2 - FLIP GRID
F3 - INVERSE GRID
F4 - CLEAR GRID
F5 - CHAR LEFT
F6 - CHAR RIGHT
F7 - ABORT EDIT
F8 - NEW CHARACTER
F9 - DONE EDITING
F10 - HELP
Char [ M ]
ASCII Value [77 ]
KEY :
(C) 1985 by EAP, Inc.

Most daisywheel or spinwriter printers have two strikes against them: They're slow, and they don't allow graphics printing like their dot-matrix brethren. To alleviate the second problem, Daisyfont prints custom characters and graphics on many letter-quality printers.

The developer claims to have tested and approved Daisyfont on all but Brother, IBM and Dynax printers, and they're working on those now. Also under development are versions for 24-pin dot-matrix and laser printers. In general, Daisyfont should work on any printer that is fully compatible with Diablo 630, Qume or NEC (except ELF).

Daisyfont consists of two working parts, namely a memory-resident print program and a separate font editor. Installation is simple and direct since a batch file is supplied to customize the system. Other than specifying different target media, both floppy- and hard-disk users follow the same procedure.

Starting the system could get a little confusing for some users. The documentation I received was preliminary, and I hope loading instructions will be written more clearly in the final version. The existing manual is inconsistent when referencing "loading" and "activating." Incidentally, this is another of those programs that must be loaded before other memory-resident utilities. Failing to do that, I quickly locked up my PC. Having another memory-resident program that also requires being loaded first could produce some interesting conflicts.

Daisyfont is supplied with four custom fonts, but users may design any number of others. The editor is intelligently designed and is much simpler to use than I would have thought possible. Users familiar with sprite graphics such as those on Atari and Commodore machines will find using Daisyfont's editor similar to using a sprite editor.

This editor works within a DOS shell and reveals only a few minor problems during operation. Temporarily exiting to the DOS shell caused a system lockup when attempting to get to the directory from an empty floppy drive. The system seemed to get confused, and no number of retries, ignores or aborts could get things straightened out. In fairness, this problem exists in many virtual DOS shells for other packages, and I don't know whether to blame IBM's BIOS or the developers' failures to anticipate it.

One other problem encountered in the font editor occurred after making a keying error while loading an existing font for editing. The screen filled with flashing hieroglyphics and caused some momentary confusion. When confused, many users start pushing keys randomly. If that doesn't work, they reboot. Here, however, hitting the Escape key seemed to calm things down, and the program finally got itself rolling again.

The memory-resident print program is activated by a [CONTROL-SHIFT-ALT] key combination and also can be called directly from the font editor. This program directs output to the printer or to an alternate spool file or printer on another parallel port. The program has several options for loading any previously customized font or expanding the size of any font up to a factor of four. It also contains a type-through function that could be handy for addressing envelopes or writing short notes.

With the few exceptions noted, Daisyfont performed well. Printing large, custom fonts takes about 30 seconds per character on an 18 cps printer like the Juki 6100, so it isn't exactly lightning fast. Users may want to restrict the use of custom fonts unless they have a faster printer than I used. Still, this could be a useful program for those needing special printing fonts, but I think the price might be a bit high for that limited function.

*James Moran is vice president of Programming Service Corp., a Midwestern consulting and research firm. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

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| SAVE ON SUPER DISK™ DISKETTES Product Description | Part # | Super Disk price per disc ($) |
|---|---|---|
| 5¼" SSSD Soft Sector w/Hub Ring | **6431-CA** | 0.54 |
| 5¼" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope | **6437-CA** | 0.39 |
| 5¼" SSDD Soft Sector w/Hub Ring | **6481-CA** | 0.58 |
| 5¼" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope | **6487-CA** | 0.43 |
| 5¼" DSDD Soft Sector w/Hub Ring | **6491-CA** | 0.64 |
| 5¼" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope | **6497-CA** | 0.49 |
| 5¼" DSQD Soft Sector (96 TPI) | **6501-CA** | 0.99 |
| 5¼" Same as above, but bulk pack w/o envelope | **6507-CA** | 0.84 |
| 5¼" DSHD for IBM PC/AT - bulk pack | **6667-CA** | 2.07 |
| 3½" SSDD (135 TPI) - bulk pack | **6317-CA** | 1.67 |
| 3½" DSDD (135 TPI) - bulk pack | **6327-CA** | 1.99 |

*SSSD = Single Sided Single Density; SSDD = Single Sided Double Density; DSDD = Double Sided Double Density; DSQD = Double Sided Quad Density. DSHD = Double Sided High Density; TPI = Tracks per inch.*

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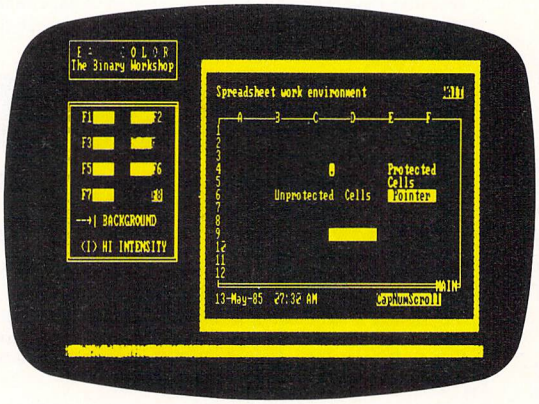



## Easy Color

***Spruces up Lotus Symphony and 1-2-3***

The Binary Workshop
44 E. Main St., #202B
Champaign, IL 61820
217/359-3400 or 800/255-2255

**Computers:** IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100 percent compatibles.
**Operating Systems:** PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
**Media:** Requires two double-sided diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
**Copy Protection:** None.
**Required Peripherals:** Color monitor with CGA-compatible video adapter; current version does not support EGA-compatible video displays.
**Other Requirements:** Working copy of Lotus Symphony (release 1.0, 1.01 or 1.1) or Lotus 1-2-3 (release 1A or 2); works with all memory configurations running Symphony or 1-2-3.
**Optional Items:** None.
**System used for test:** 640K Compaq Deskpro Model 2 with two diskette drives, 20MB IOMEGA Alpha-10 Cartridge Drive Subsystem (Bernoulli Box), Amdek Color 722 RGB monitor, STB Systems EGA Plus video adapter running in CGA mode and Epson FX-85 printer; running IBM PC-DOS 2.10 and Symphony 1.1 set for a single color monitor and CGA-compatible operation.
**List Price:** $59.95 for Symphony version; $49.95 for 1-2-3 version; 40 percent discount in quantities of five or more.

*Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau*

If you dislike Lotus-imposed color combinations as much as I do, you probably have hunted for some slick way to change them. Since Lotus does not provide selectable color settings, a utility called Easy Color seems to be just the thing for those of us with CGA-compatible video adapters (EGA versions under development were not available at this writing).

Easy Color modifies the color controls for the associated Lotus products, namely Symphony or 1-2-3. For the Symphony version, it alters the MASTER.LBR file so future Symphony runs use chosen colors. It is not a memory-resident program. The colors can be changed at any time just by rerunning Easy Color. The system can be restored to its default colors just by reactivating a backup of the original controlling file.

Easy Color reads the current color configuration and displays page mockups. For Symphony, mockups are provided for sheet, document, form and graph pages. By moving a pointer to a selected element, say unprotected text, and pressing function keys, eight foreground and eight background colors can be selected, with high or low intensity for foregrounds. However, page colors are not independent, so a color selected for something like spreadsheet text also applies to documents and forms.

Graphs can be cycled through four palettes (two color sets at two intensities), have text cycled through colors and even have stripes applied to multiple appearances of like colors.

Easy Color worked perfectly. It was a breeze to use and let me escape from lackluster Lotus colors into vibrant and usable combinations. It is a worthwhile, reasonably priced utility.

*Ernest E. Mau, a full-time free-lance writer and* Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

GO EBB or circle 22 on the Reader Service Form.

## Electronic Edition Software Reviews

The following reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

**Printrix Personal Typesetting**
**Manufacturer:** *Data Transforms, Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and 100% compatibles.*

**Borland's Turbo Pascal Jumbo Pack**
**Manufacturer:** *Borland International, Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and true compatibles; available for CP/M computers.*

**QuickCode III Utility For dBase III**
**Manufacturer:** *Fox & Geller*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, and compatibles.*

**Programmed Evaluation of Contract Option Strategies**
**Manufacturer:** *IBM Personally Developed Software*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, Portable PC, or 3270 PC.*

**Tempo Macro Generator**
**Manufacturer:** *Affinity Microsystems, Ltd.*
**Computers:** *Apple Macintosh 512K and Macintosh Plus.*

**MacAdvantage: MailManager**
**Manufacturer:** *Pecan Software Systems, Inc.*
**Computers:** *Apple Macintosh 128K or 512K.*

**Executive Picture Show Presentation System**
**Manufacturer:** *Spectrum HoloByte, Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.*

**Webster's New World On-Line Thesaurus**
**Manufacturer:** *Simon & Schuster, Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PCjr. and 100% compatibles.*

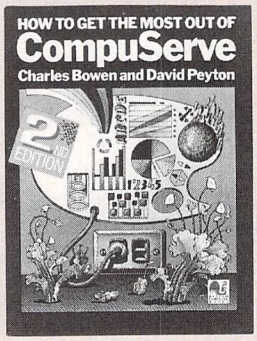
**Electra-Find Update**
**Manufacturer:** *O'Neill Software*
**Computers:** *IBM PC and compatibles; CP/M-based microcomputers.*

**Access Telecommunications Update**
**Manufacturer:** *Microsoft Corp.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT or strict compatibles.*

**Nutshell Information Filer**
**Manufacturer:** *Leading Edge Products, Inc.*
**Computers:** *IBM PC, PC-XT and compatibles.*

## How To Get The Most Out Of CompuServe
### (Second Edition)

By Charles Bowen and David Peyton
Bantam Books, 1986
323 pages, $16.95 (softcover)
*Reviewed by Holly G. Miller*




**As an introduction to the system, the book is unbeatable.**

Late-night treks through the catacombs of CompuServe take on junket-like status when Charlie Bowen and Dave Peyton chart the course. The two veteran forum administrators and *Online Today* contributors have never forgotten the confusion of logging on for the first time.

They decided somebody should write a book. So, after they mastered the system in '82, they did. The result was a guide so readable that it stripped the mystery from CompuServe while sharing the system's secrets and shortcuts. The book's strength was in its style; no technical talk or computerese for these West Virginia good old boys . . . just a chatty invitation to join in the fun.

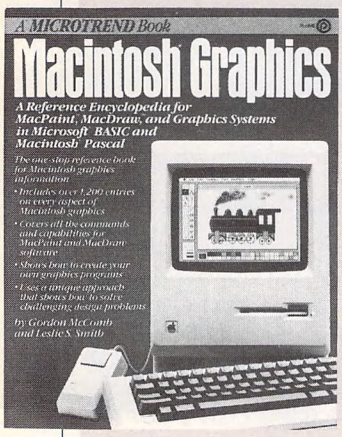
Since CompuServe is always expanding and refining its options, any printed documentation is going to be slightly out of date on publication. *How To Get The Most Out Of CompuServe* is no exception. After two years in circulation, the first edition begat the second in order to track the changes. The current version has more pages (323 versus 277); larger, easier to read type; higher cover price (up $4); and a different look. Gone is the spiral format that was so convenient to prop up during those wee-hour junkets. In its place is a more traditional, if less practical, rigid-spined package. Happily, the style and content have remained intact, though updated.

Anyone contemplating the purchase of the book can justify the expense in two ways. Early connect time will be more carefully spent under the guidance of tour leaders Bowen and Peyton. By following their itinerary, in the first online hour the subscriber will catch up on the day's news, write an EasyPlex letter and play a few hands of blackjack to unwind. Not bad for a novice. Alien phrases such as "shareware" are explained, and colorful "for instances" are offered in case the initial explanations don't register. An added incentive is the $6 usage credit for all subscribers who buy the book.

A note of caution: As valuable as this resource is, it definitely is geared to system newcomers. Seasoned users may find the patient hand-in-hand approach a bit slow, but as an introduction to the system, it is unbeatable.

Perhaps the friendly tone of the book is best exemplified by the last section of the last page. The authors list their CompuServe User ID numbers along with an invitation to keep in touch. After all, at the conclusion of the quick and enjoyable read, beginners are peers and are only an EasyPlex away.

*Holly G. Miller is a free-lance writer and college professor from Anderson, Ind. She also is a contributing editor of* The Saturday Evening Post *and* Indianapolis *magazine. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2345.*


A MICROTREND Book
Macintosh Graphics
A Reference Encyclopedia for MacPaint, MacDraw, and Graphics Systems in Microsoft BASIC and Macintosh Pascal
The one-stop reference book for Macintosh graphics information
• Includes over 1,200 entries on every aspect of Macintosh graphics
• Covers all the commands and capabilities for MacPaint and MacDraw software
• Shows how to create your own graphics programs
• Uses a unique approach that shows how to solve challenging design problems
by Gordon McComb and Leslie S. Smith

**One of the best features is the "Casebooks" that give methods and tips for creating specific graphic effects.**

## Macintosh Graphics

By Gordon McComb
and Leslie S. Smith
New American Library, 1985
358 pages, $16.95 (softcover)
*Reviewed by Joe Farace*

The thought of reading a book that calls itself a reference encyclopedia may not seem appealing. Encyclopedias may be used for reference, but they're seldom fun to read. Fortunately, that's not the case with *Macintosh Graphics*.

In the introduction, the authors make a point to state that *Macintosh Graphics* is not designed to be read from front to back like a conventional book. Instead they feel it should only be looked at when you need to solve a problem or answer a specific graphics question. I ignored this admonition and started reading it like the book it looks like it is.

I was eating a sandwich as I read, and within a few pages the hands-on nature of the book dragged me back to my Mac. (OK, so a few crumbs did fall into the keyboard.) The information in the pages is so densely packed that the 15 pages called "Introducing MacPaint" showed me more subtle features of this versatile program than I've come across in over two years of using it on a daily basis. The sections on MacDraw are equally enlightening.

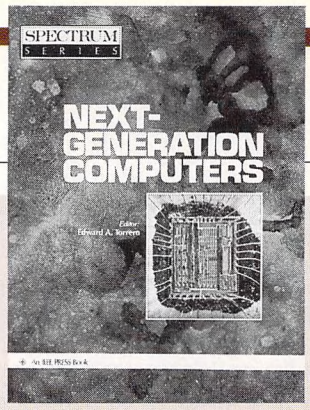
One of the best features of the *Macintosh Graphics* are the "Casebooks" that give methods and tips for creating specific graphic effects. If you are already a whiz at MacPaint and MacDraw, check these sections out first. You're sure to pick up some new and helpful information.

Unlike most books on Macintosh graphics, this one has detailed information on creating artwork within Macintosh Pascal and Microsoft BASIC programs. Copying some of the short routines will enable you to visually enhance your own Pascal or BASIC programs and will help teach you how to create your own graphic design or artwork.

The last section is called "A World of Macintosh Graphics Software" and includes examples using Microsoft Chart, various clip-art packages, and Hayden's VideoWorks. If, like me, you can't draw a straight line without using the Shift key, you'll appreciate the roundup on image digitizers. There's also data on fonts, the MacPaint pattern palette and much more.

I could go on and on. The book is must reading for anyone interested in effectively using graphics on the Macintosh.

*Joe Farace is a writer and photographer from Denver. He is a contributing editor of* PhotoMethods *magazine and his reviews of Macintosh software will appear in an upcoming book from Arrays Inc.*




**The book takes no editorial position on the future and instead leaves it up to each author to create a picture of what's coming.**

## Next-Generation Computers

Edited by Edward A. Torrero
IEEE Press, 1986
347 pages, $39.95 (hardcover)
*Reviewed by John Edwards*

One fine spring day in 1969, when I was 14 and a student at New York's fabled Junior High School 119, I managed to sneak into the New York Coliseum and visit the IEEE show, an annual event staged by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. I got in on a college student pass. I was a mature 14.

The show was a dazzler. I ogled Nixie tubes, desk-sized computers with less power than a TRS-80 Model I and a Sony VCR that rivaled the proportions of a '59 Eldorado. They even let me speak over a space helmet radio. It was a gas.

Today, Comdex has replaced the IEEE event on my trade show calendar, computers and VCRs have gone on a crash diet and Nixie tubes have been relegated to the dark back shelves of the Boston Computer Museum. The IEEE, however, is still dazzling with its glimpses of the future.

*Next-Generation Computers*, an IEEE Press book edited by Edward A. Torrero, is an engineer's look at the digital days ahead. And since computers are expected to dominate virtually every aspect of our lives in the years to come, one also could say that this text is an examination of the future in general.

Torrero has gathered together the thoughts of 40 contributors to *IEEE Spectrum*, the institute's highly respected journal, including artificial intelligence expert Edward Feigenbaum, Nobel Laureate Kenneth Wilson and technology-watchers John Naisbitt and Granger Morgan. During the course of the approximately 100 articles reprinted from the magazine, these experts ponder the future and tell us how computer developments will affect our lives.

On the positive side, the authors see a future in which computers and robots will continue to assume society's repetitive and mundane jobs, allowing those with talent and ability to make better use of their ever-increasing amounts of free time.

For example, Robert J. Douglass in his article "A Day In The Life of A New-Generation Computer User," describes a world of voice-based computers that navigate our cars around traffic jams, multimedia workstations that provide first-person travel simulations ("John relaxes before heading home by using his office workstation to wander around the streets of Tangiers") and electronic "trip planners" that automatically book the cheapest and most direct flights while simultaneously informing the airlines of your diet considerations. All of this by 1993, according to Douglass, who works at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

On the other hand, some of the authors see trouble ahead. Walter Beam, a former Sperry Corp. vice president, thinks that school computers may lead to mediocrity. Other authors express concern that next-generation computers will result in less opportunity for low-skilled workers.

The book itself takes no editorial position on the future, leaving it up to each author to paint his or her own picture of what's coming our way. Because of this approach, we sometimes see conflicting thoughts. And that's probably good. Books that take only a single view of the future usually end up looking pretty funny within a few years. That's not likely to happen in this case. With all of the ideas expressed in *Next-Generation Computers*, you know that at least some of the authors are bound to be proved correct.

Anyway, I continue to be dazzled by it all.

*John Edwards is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,412.*

## The Electronic Mailbox

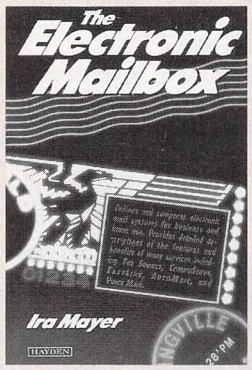
By Ira Mayer
Hayden Book Co., 1985
198 pages, $16.95 (softcover)
*Reviewed by Charles Bowen*

If there is one thing fundamental to dial-up computer services these days, it is electronic mail. Even systems that have not inspired direct communications among their subscribers, such as Dow Jones News/Retrieval, have found electronic mail of some kind a "must."

"Of some kind" is the operative phrase here — the approaches used in electronic mail programs are varied indeed. What some systems call electronic mail is not much more than the "message-switching" provided by the rudest of computer bulletin board systems; others provide electronic mail with sophisticated mass-mailing options, acknowledgement receipts, electronic filing cabinets and much more.

Now comes computer consultant Ira Mayer to help us sort out the mailers in a comprehensive comparison.

Mayer, president of New York's Presentation Consultants Inc. and columnist for *The New York Post*, attempts to cover the whole spectrum of mail services. His book, *The Electronic Mailbox*, makes a generally adequate stab at explaining the mailing programs provided as part of large information services. However, the book really shines when it addresses what's called the "mail specialists." (Bless your heart, Ira Mayer, for demystifying for me Western Union's "EasyLink," a misnomer if I ever saw one.)




**Computer consultant Ira Mayer helps us sort out the mail programs in a comprehensive comparison.**

In addition to EasyLink, the specialists covered include MCI Mail, Federal Express Zapmail, RCA Telextra, ITT Dialcom, General Electric Quik-Comm, ADP AutoMail, CompuServe's Infoplex, GTE Telenet, Telemail and RCA Mail.

You may be wondering why you'd want to look at a book that compares electronic mail services. After all, isn't that like comparing automobiles? — once you've selected the one you'll buy, your interest in comparisons declines dramatically.

I confess, I thought the same thing until I looked closer. In addition to his detailed comparisons with charts and graphs, Mayer has provided some first-rate introductory material on electronic communications in general, written in an admirably concise style.

It seems to me that would make *The Electronic Mailbox* ideal for a business person who is considering electronic mail but doesn't know what features to

look for. Mayer clearly points out what is possible with modern messaging.

I suppose the book is at its weakest when it is discussing the mail options of the large general services — it gives passing notice to the electronic mail of CompuServe, The Source and Delphi. These sections pale so much in comparison with the detail provided about EasyLink, Zapmail, MCI Mail and the like, that I wonder if these chapters were an after-thought.

If Hayden considers a second edition of the book, I hope more space can be devoted to the subject of "file transfer programs." As computer communicators become more sophisticated, there is a growing interest in being able to compose letters offline for later transmission via programs such as XMODEM or Kermit, and it would be useful if the book discussed techniques and which services provide "error-checking" for uploading.

As it stands, though, the book is a fine survey for those who want to know just what to look for in a good electronic letter carrier.

*Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

## Inside Information:

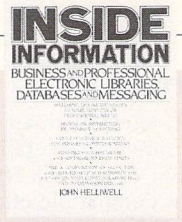
***Business and Professional Electronic Libraries, Databases and Messaging***

By John Helliwell
A Plume Book, New American Library, 1986
332 pages, $14.95 (softcover)
*Reviewed by Sharon Weizenbaum*

Remember opening an expensive computer book and discovering that three quarters of the contents were devoted to programming in BASIC, while the remaining quarter sketched in a few facts about your computer? Forget that. John Helliwell's new compendium is the factual bargain of the year.

Helliwell describes his book as "a nononsense guide to improving your productivity by using electronic information and communications tools." The book does this and more — it teaches. Helliwell doesn't hesitate to go into detail if an explanation calls for it. The most seasoned applications user will find something new here.

The book's three sections cover hardware, software and communications facilities, data sources and other online services. The experienced reader is advised to "fast forward" the first




**Helliwell describes his book as a nononsense guide to improving your productivity by using electronic information and communications tools.**

section if concepts such as network connections are thoroughly understood. Skipping the section, however, might mean missing some interesting details, such as an analysis of the "mating dance" of the modem, and an answer as to why a "squeal" is heard at one bps speed and a white noise at another.

The heart of the book is contained in the second section, "Databases and Information," which analyzes, among other topics, the major online services, sources of both basic and sophisticated business information, and services used for specialized research. Pricing changes, involving a shift from per-hour to per-unit-of-information, are discussed in relation to improvements in the speed of modems and microcomputers.

Carefully detailed chapters offer a valuable tutorial in database searching. In addition, databases are compared, not merely listed. In a section discussing databases to help sell products or services, Helliwell shows how a researcher interested in the soft-drink business might use various industry databases in market research. He goes through the records, showing three interpretations based on the same magazine article quoting a marketing vice-president of a leading soft-drink company. A marketing decision based on one of the records in his example could have led to a crucial business decision based on inadequate information.

A third section, dealing with electronic mail, exchanging information, computer conferencing and the power of telecommunicating, contains information of interest to the business or nonbusiness user. An informative discussion on how to achieve integration without necessarily using an integrated software package addresses a problem common to all those who decide, in the midst of word processing or using spreadsheets, to check electronic mail. The reader is led step by step through a method that will organize a computer system so "flipping" back and forth between functions is possible.

*Inside Information* conveys a commodity in short supply these days — communication.

## Electronic Edition Book Reviews

The following book reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-240 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

**Commodore 128 Programmer's Reference Guide**, *by Larry Greenley, Bantam Computer Books*

**Using the Microsoft Business BASIC Compiler on the IBM PC**, *by Murray Lesser, BYTE Books*

**Creative Programming in Microsoft BASIC for Optimal Macintosh Performance**, *by Steve Lambert, Microsoft Press*

**Understanding Expert Systems**, *by Mike Van Horn/The Waite Group, Bantam Computer Books*

**Working with DisplayWrite 3**, *by Rob Krumm, TAB Books*

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## Compuduster

To remove stubborn, hard-to-reach dust and dirt in sensitive computers, disk drives and other equipment, Read/Right offers Compuduster, a portable compressed-gas duster.

The laboratory-pure gas will dislodge dust from hidden locations in printers, microcomputers, typewriter keyboards and other recessed areas of computers and office equipment. Compuduster comes with a flexible three-foot extension hose and nozzle that pinpoints a fine stream of gas for eliminating contaminants. Retail price is $29.95.

For information, contact Read/Right, The Texwipe Co., P.O. Box 575, Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458; 201/327-9100.

GO EBB or circle 24 on the Reader Service Form.

## Two in One

ExecutiveTwin, a newly created system from PCs Limited that retails for $495, allows a user of a single IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT or compatible effectively to create two machines out of one by sharing functions.

Using ExecutiveTwin, two independent users can simultaneously share the machine's CPU, peripherals and program functions. It provides enhanced features not available under DOS, such as file security through up to 64 levels of password, file locking and electronic mailing. ExecutiveTwin consists of an add-on board, software, 50 feet of cable, a monitor and an IBM-compatible keyboard.

For information, contact PCs Limited, 1611 Headway Circle, Bldg. 3, Austin, TX 78754; 512/339-6800.

GO EBB or circle 28 on the Reader Service Form.

## Salute the Captain

Captain from Network Services is a computer software system for cognitive training and rehabilitation for use with the learning disabled, mentally retarded, special vocational, stroke and head injury populations.

Utilizing the Apple Mouse, a Trackball or a Sip 'n Puff Visual Control System, Captain contains 21 different programs focusing on attention skills, visual/motor skills, conceptual skills and music. Designed for the Apple IIe, the complete system retails for $595; software modules can be purchased separately and range in price from $69 to $249.

For information, contact Network Services, 1915 Huguenot Rd., Richmond, VA 23235; 804/379-2253.

GO EBB or circle 25 on the Reader Service Form.

## Graphics Library

The Print Shop Graphics Library Disk 2 for the IBM PC, Apple II, Commodore 64/128 and Atari has been released by Bröderbund Software.

Disk 2 provides Print Shop users with 175 additional, ready-to-use graphics including drawings of the beach, city, doctor, pharaoh, books, shells, coffee, carousel, chemistry, sales and more. The program retails for $34.95 and requires The Print Shop, a printer, disk drive and at least 128K of memory.

For information, contact Bröderbund Software, Inc., 17 Paul Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903-2101; 415/479-1170.

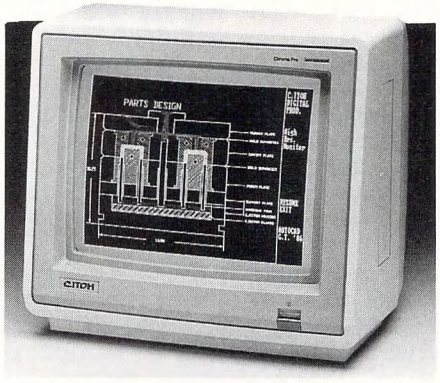
GO EBB or circle 29 on the Reader Service Form.

## C.Itoh Color Monitor

C. Itoh Digital Products Inc. has introduced a new EGA-compatible color monitor designed for high resolution color business applications.

Called the Chroma Pro CM 4000, the monitor is ideally suited for applications requiring sharp, stable color images without compromising the quality of clear, well-defined true monochrome text. Supported by most popular computers, including the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles, the CM 4000 features a non-glare dark screen for easy viewing.

For information, contact C. Itoh Digital Products, 19750 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 220, Torrance, CA 90502; 800/423-0300 or 213/327-2110.




GO EBB or circle 26 on the Reader Service Form.

## Atari ST Software

Abacus Software has released a number of software programs designed for the new Atari 1040ST computer.

ST PaintPro is a graphics program that uses up to three windows and allows free-form sketching, lines, circles, ellipses, boxes and more. ST TextPro is a professional word processor that features multicolumn output, automatic indexing, fast text input and scrolling. ST FilePro is a simple yet versatile data management package that allows easy file design and input of data through screen templates. All three programs retail for $49.95.

For information, contact Abacus Software, 2201 Kalamazoo S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507; 616/241-5510.

GO EBB or circle 30 on the Reader Service Form.

## Business Toolbox

The Business Toolbox Series from the James River Group Inc. is a package of 20 new business utility programs ranging in price from $40 to $95.

Included in the series are a mailing list and notebook program called T-Man as well as one called Loans, which calculates loan payments and prints a schedule of payments. The programs are available for most microcomputers.

For information, contact James River Group Inc., 125 N. First St., Minneapolis, MN 55401; 612/339-2521.

GO EBB or circle 27 on the Reader Service Form.

## Talk to Us

*Online Today Electronic Edition* has a Feedback area for letters to the editor. Simply type GO OLT-33 from any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service.

ONLINE TODAY

## Communications Test Software

Codex Corp. has introduced the first software product for its 2600 Series of advanced high speed modems.

The Codex Communications Test Equipment software, which retails for $1,500, allows users to run the same circuit quality tests used by Bell technicians on leased lines. The CTE integrates the features of a Transmission Impairment Measurement Set and Remote Data Scope.

For information, contact Codex Corp., 20 Cabot Blvd., Mansfield, MA 02048-1193; 617/364-2000.

GO EBB or circle 31 on the Reader Service Form.

## Half-Card Modem

PCs Limited has introduced a half-card modem that handles 2400-baud transmissions and sells for $295.

Designed for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles, the modem features automatic/manual originate and answer functions. It also can operate at 300 and 1200 bps in asynchronous mode. Other features include an integral speaker with software volume control, accessible DIP switches for setup, DTMF tone or pulse dialing, call progress detection and dual telephone jacks.

For information, contact PCs Limited, 1611 Headway Circle, Bldg. 3, Austin, TX 78754; 512/339-6800.

GO EBB or circle 34 on the Reader Service Form.

## Apple Writer Filing System

The Filing System from MinuteWare Publishing is a new word processing or text-oriented filing system for Apple Writer.

With unlimited field length, the user can store paragraphs, descriptions, reviews, abstracts, recipes or other information with the ease of a word processor. This is the first completely open and user modifiable filing system and is designed for the Apple IIe or IIc. Retail price is $99.95

For information, contact MinuteWare Publishing , P.O. Box 2392, Columbia, MD 21045; 301/995-1166.

GO EBB or circle 35 on the Reader Service Form.

## TeleCAT Compact

TeleVideo Systems Inc. has introduced the TeleVideo TeleCAT-286 compact, AT compatible computer.

Measuring 16- by 16½-inches, the TeleCAT-286 features 512K RAM, 1.2MB diskette drive, a formatted 20 or optional 30MB Winchester drive, keyboard, RS-232C serial port, parallel printer port, clock/calendar with battery backup and five I/O bus expansion slots. Retail price is $2,995.

For information, contact TeleVideo Systems Inc., 550 E. Brokaw Rd., P.O. Box 6602, San Jose, CA 95150-6602; 408/745-7760.

GO EBB or circle 32 on the Reader Service Form.

## SideStep

SideStep from SoftCorp Inc. is a horizontal printing program that has been enhanced to feature new printing capabilities.

The program, which retails for $60, has improved font files, enabling it to print even more of the extended ASCII character set than previously possible. This printer enhancement program for the IBM PC and compatibles allows graphics printers to print spreadsheets, project management charts and other wide files horizontally rather than vertically. SideStep routes an entire document 90 degrees, resulting in a document of virtually any width printed on a single, continuous sheet of paper.

For information, contact SoftCorp Inc., 2340 State Rd. 580, Suite 244, Clearwater, FL 33575; 813/799-3984.

GO EBB or circle 36 on the Reader Service Form.

## Talking Words

Verbal Star from Computer Conversations is a revolutionary word processing program that can speak through a speech synthesizer.

The program supports many features of standard text editing programs, performing block moves, copying and deleting, line centering, global search and replace, and others. In addition, Verbal Star verbally tells users precisely what it is doing and when it does it. With the use of function keys, the user can read an entire screen or single line. Text can be spoken in words or spelled, and keystrokes can be echoed if desired. The software also can be used with the speech turned off. Retail price is $99.95.

For information, contact Computer Conversations, 2350 N. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43202; 614/263-4324.

GO EBB or circle 33 on the Reader Service Form.

## Guard-It

Ohm/Electronics has introduced the Scooter Model SP100 Guard-It Single Outlet Surge Protector, applicable to any electronic equipment.

This 125V, 15A, line protection device plugs into any three-prong wall socket and glows to show that it is protecting the equipment against voltage surges. It is ideal for single source protection of microcomputers, modems and other telecommunications equipment. Retail price is $9.95.

For information, contact Ohm/Electronics, 746 Vermont St., Palatine, IL 60067; 800/323-2727 (nationwide) or 312/359-6040 (in Ill.).

GO EBB or circle 37 on the Reader Service Form.

## Modem Exchange

Modem Exchange from Intelligent Technologies International Corp. is a newly distributed processing product for micro-to-mainframe communications.

A user of any IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT or PC-compatible computer can plug the Modem Exchange board into an expansion slot, attach a standard phone line to the board's RJ-11 jack, boot the Modem Exchange software and access any software application running under the company's SNA Exchange package. Retail price is $1,995.

For information, contact Intelligent Technologies, 737 Lincoln Centre Dr., Foster City, CA 94404; 415/345-6666.

GO EBB or circle 38 on the Reader Service Form.

## Computer-Image Overhead

Eastman Kodak Co. has developed a computer-image overhead projection system called the Electronic Transparency, System 10.

The unit provides IBM PC and compatible users with a fast and easy way to create, store and present data with any transmissive overhead transparency projector. The electronic transparency interfaces with the LCD display panel on any IBM PC with RGB output. The LCD panel is placed on the glass platen of the overhead projector and used to generate bright, legible images.

For information, contact Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650; 716/724-3169.

GO EBB or circle 39 on the Reader Service Form.

## ProWriter Upgrade

C. Itoh Digital Products Inc. has introduced an upgraded version of its ProWriter C-310 that provides the dot-matrix printer with a "dual identity" between Epson FX-85 and IBM ProPrinter control codes.

Called the C-310 XP, the new printer lets users choose between Epson FX-85 and IBM ProPrinter emulation with the press of a button on the front control panel. It features a near-letter quality mode at 50 cps as well as letter quality printing at 33 cps.

For information, contact C. Itoh Digital Products, Inc., 19750 S. Vermont Ave., Suite 220, Torrance, CA 90502; 213/327-2110.

GO EBB or circle 40 on the Reader Service Form.

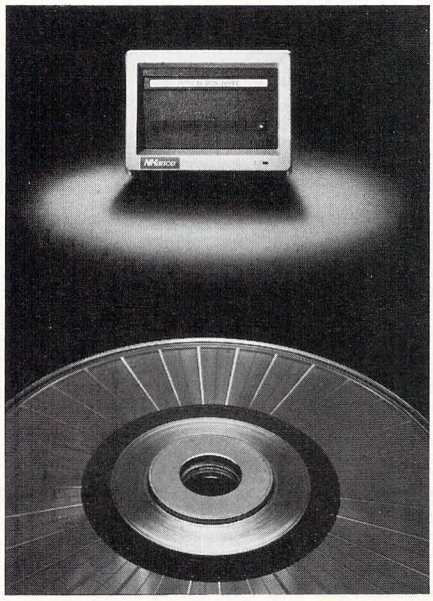
## N/Hance Optical Disk

A high speed, high capacity optical disk system for users of IBM PC or PC-compatible-based CAD/CAM systems has been introduced by N/Hance Systems.

The system, called the N/Hance 525, provides 230MB of formatted storage and includes the optical disk drive, a 5¼-inch disk, an IBM PC short-board controller and device driver software that is compatible with MS-DOS and PC-DOS version 2.0 and higher. Retail price is $3,495 for this Write Once, Read Many Times (WORM) system that allows users to write data to the disk, store it in a secure, unalterable form and read the data quickly whenever it is needed.

For information, contact N/Hance Systems, A Division of Symphony Systems Inc., 908R Providence Highway, Dedham, MA 02026; 617/461-1970.

GO EBB or circle 41 on the Reader Service Form.



## 2400 IBM Card Modem

Multi-Tech Systems, Inc. has introduced a 2400 bps internal card modem that incorporates the MNP error correction protocol.

Designed to fit all IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT or compatible computers, the new MultiModem224EC features full Hayes AT command set compatibility, MNP Class 3 error detection and retransmission, auto-dial and auto-answer capability, two phone jacks, a built-in speaker and half- or full-duplex operation. It comes packaged with MultiComPC communications software and sells for $699.

For information, contact Multi-Tech Systems Inc., 82 Second Ave. S.E., New Brighton, MN 55112; 612/631-3550.

GO EBB or circle 42 on the Reader Service Form.

## Electronic Edition Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

**FrontPage**, *desktop publishing system for the IBM PC, Studio Software.*

**C Tools Plus**, *C library support package, Blaise Computing Inc.*

**MacMoney**, *financial record keeper and planner for the Macintosh, Survivor Software Ltd.*

**Swiftcalc 128**, *electronic spreadsheet for the Commodore 128, Timeworks Inc.*

**The Norton Commander**, *control and file management program for the IBM PC family, Peter Norton Computing Inc.*

**Tandy 1000 EX**, *PC-compatible home/school computer, Tandy/Radio Shack.*

**Mighty Mail**, *mailing database program for the Atari ST, MichTron.*

**Microsoft MACH 10**, *performance enhancement plug-in board for the IBM PC, Microsoft Corp.*

**S-20Plus**, *hard drive for the Macintosh, Peachtree Technology Inc.*

**Micro Console**, *centralized power control for microcomputer components, MicroComputer Accessories Inc.*

## RATES & INFORMATION

If you have hardware, software or services to offer *Online Today*'s readers, let them know with a low cost Shopper's Guide listing.

For only $85, a listing will tell *Online Today*'s growing readership what is available to improve efficiency, lower costs and increase the enjoyment of personal computing.

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**Software:**
Product name; author and/or company's name; mailing address; telephone number; CompuServe User ID number; up to 40 words describing your products.

**Services:**
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**Consultants:**
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The PROBABILITY Lottery program. Select numbers weighted towards the most or least picked in the past drawings, or totally random. Any number lottery, pick 3&4 too. See national reviews in Rainbow (Oct. 85), Computer Shopper (Jan. 86) and PCM (May 86) magazines. MS-DOS IBM AT&T Tandy 1000 and CP/M $29.95, TRS-80 CoCo and Model 3/4 $19.95.

**FREE SOFTWARE**
**BitCards Inc.**
**P.O. Box 1289-A**
**Champlain, NY 12919**
**CompuServe 73137,3613**

Reviewers have praised it as "absolutely superb" and "delightfully humorous" — "bound to be a major hit in 1986." Now you can get a free sneak-preview of *A Christmas Adventure*, the outstanding entertainment program from BitCards. Makes perfect holiday gift — easily customized to include personal references to player plus your own greeting message. Free playable sampler/demo contains over half actual program. Limit: one copy/household. Send name, address and CompuServe # plus $1 cash or loose stamps (5x22¢) to help cover sh/hg costs. Specify Apple II or C-64/128.

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Our readers comment: (Jim, 24) Just thought I'd drop a line to say that I'm impressed with these Forums. You're doing a fantastic job. My hat's off to the Human Sexuality Forums . . . (Ric, 33) You provide a solid service to people who would not normally be able to communicate with health pros about a subject that is, for them, hard to talk about . . . (Merry, 18) This is an excellent way for teenagers to learn about sex without embarrassment. I particularly enjoyed your Features about "Resisting Sexual Pressures" and "Are You Ready for Sex?" . . . (Henry, 27) Your Talk About Relationships discussion " 'Reveal My Homosexuality?' Tips on Coming Out" helped me talk candidly with my family and friends about being gay.

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If you have a question or comment about editorial material appearing in *Online Today* magazine, you may write to:

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Online Today Magazine
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Columbus, OH 43220

You also may send editorial comments through the Editors' Feedback section of *Online Today Electronic Edition* (GO OLT-30 on the CompuServe Information Service).

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October issue, not valid after January 1987.

# How to Set and Change Your Online Parameters

***CompuServe Lets You Control How Information Appears on Your Screen***

An appealing characteristic of CompuServe is the control it gives us over how the information is displayed on our computer screens. With a few simple commands, we can have a good, readable presentation, whether our screens display 80 characters a line or 32 or something in between.

The first time you logged on to CompuServe, you probably answered a few preliminary questions about your communications setup — the maximum number of characters in one line on your screen, the number of lines per screen, etc. This information was filed away with your account to serve as your "default setting." Unless you tell it otherwise, the system will assume you want to *default* to those settings.

Because your situation can change — you buy a new computer or new software that gives you different screen dimensions — CompuServe makes it painless for you to change your online parameters, either permanently or temporarily. In this column, we'll look at commands that do that.

But first a word about *permanence.* In the world of CompuServe, "permanent" does not mean forever; it means, "permanent, until you change it again." That means any defaults you change can be changed back if you don't like the results, so don't be afraid to experiment with the settings.

CompuServe offers two groups of options for changing the way things appear on the screen:

- The SET commands for temporary changes (that is, changes in effect until you log off from the current session).
- The PROFILE options for permanent changes (permanent until further notice from you).

The SET group is particularly handy because you can call the SET commands into play from any prompt on the system.

Suppose you have recently bought a second computer that has a different screen size than your first system. The one you generally use on CompuServe has an 80-character screen line and that is what you have already told CompuServe you want as your default. However, the new machine, which you'll be using occasionally on the system, has only a 64-character screen line.

As soon as you log on with the new machine and begin reading text on the system, you will see the problem — CompuServe, thinking you are using your old machine, sends you 80-character lines, which on your new machine appear as one full line followed by a partial line. Very distracting.

So that's a job for SET. At any prompt, you can enter SET WID 64. That translates to, "SET the WIDth to 64 characters."

Suppose your second machine can hold only 16 lines on a screen, shorter than the 25-line capability of your first system. Under your existing defaults, CompuServe will send you nine more lines than your screen can hold, so some of it will scroll off the top of the screen before pausing with a "MORE !" prompt.

Once again, call on SET — this time with SET LIN 16 (for "SET the number of LINes to 16").

SET also can be used to turn on or off Brief mode — SET BRI ON or SET BRI OFF — and to start or stop pauses between pages (the "MORE !" prompt that appears midway through a file) with SET PAG ON or SET PAG OFF.

If you are unsure of how a particular default currently is set, just enter SET and the parameter you are interested in. For instance, if you enter SET WID<CR>, CompuServe will tell you the current "width" setting and give you an opportunity to change it.

Once again, changes you make with the SET options are temporary — in effect only for the current session. Once you log off, the system "forgets" them and the next time you log on, CompuServe will set you up with the parameters listed as your defaults.

Suppose you want to change what is on file in that default area. Perhaps you no longer have your first computer, and you now want CompuServe automatically to set you up with your new parameters each time you log on. To do that, visit the TERMINAL section of the system, with the command GO TERMINAL. The result will be a menu like this:

```
CompuServe          TERMINAL/OPTIONS

 1 Instructions
 2 Setting Your Terminal Type
 3 Setting Your Logon Actions
 4 Setting Delays for Printers
 5 View or Change Current
     Terminal Parameters
 6 Setting your Service Options

Enter choice !
```

Note that option 5 lets you "View or Change Current Terminal Parameters." If you select it, you will see your default file, something like this:

```
TERMINAL TYPE

 OTHER      Baud Rate:  1200
TERMINAL PARAMETERS
1 Terminal width    80 CHARACTERS
2 Screen size is now    24 LINES
3 Form Feeds are        SIMULATED
4 Horizontal Tabs are   SIMULATED
5 Terminal supports   UPPER/LOWER
6 Caps Lock is              OFF
7 Line Feeds are            SENT
8 Parity is                 EVEN
9 Blank Lines are           SENT

Enter choice !
```

The Instruction option on the previous menu will provide definitions on each of these options. The ones we are interested in now are options 1 and 2.

The Terminal width option, which you can change by simply entering "1" at the "Enter choice" prompt, is similar to the SET WID command, except that changes made here in the TERMINAL area of the system can be made permanent. Whatever number is entered to the prompt received after you select option 1 is the default width.

Option 2, Screen Size, is similar to the SET LIN command, except that here it can become your default setting.

After you have made all the changes you wish to make in the TERMINAL area, the system will ask whether you want the changes made for the current session only or for all future sessions as well.

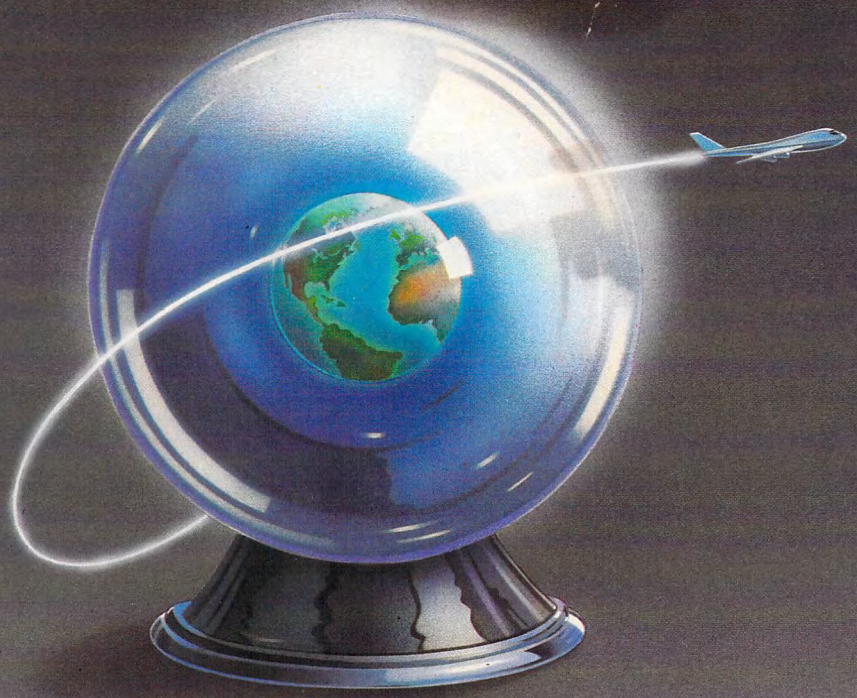
Incidentally, at logon CompuServe provides an easy way to override all the defaults listed in the TERMINAL area. All you need to do is append the extension ";TTY" to your User ID number, like this:

```
User ID:  70007,411;TTY
```

In next month's column, we will look at the VU/TEXT service available through IQuest.

*Charles Bowen is a contributing editor of* Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

WITH THE OAG [illegible] EDITION. . .



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